

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 23, 2014

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Page 10



## Tough guys

Pair preparing for a gruelling challenge

Page 19



## What's on

Entertainment and TV listings guide

Starts Page 25



## FA charge – Anelka hits back via tweet

WEST Bromwich Albion striker Nicolas Anelka has hit back over his FA misconduct charge by tweeting a video claiming his controversial 'quenelle' goal celebration was not anti-Semitic.

The 34-year-old, who faces a minimum five-match ban if found guilty, on Tuesday posted a link to a clip in which Roger Cukierman, president of French-based Jewish group CRIF, claimed the gesture was not anti-Semitic if performed on a football pitch. He tweeted the link with the message 'Rien à ajouter' which translates as 'Nothing to add'.

Anelka was speaking to lawyers this week after the Baggies told him he must pay his own legal bills if he fights the allegation. He met officials and was told that, while the club will help any challenge, it will not pay for legal counsel. He must decide by today whether to accept or contest the charge.

The striker made the gesture during the West Ham match on December 28. He claimed his actions were in support of French comedian Dieudonné M'Elba M'Elba and not intended to be offensive. The charge came after club sponsors Zoopla said it would not be extending its deal with Albion past the summer.

■ Sport – See Page 40

## Asbestos find closes school

THREE classrooms were cordoned off at a school after the discovery of asbestos in an underground pipe.

Experts sealed off a section of a teaching block at Earls High School, Halesowen, after a small contamination in 10ft of cast iron pipe was discovered following a leak in the heating system. The school was shut for two days for repairs.

Vice-principal Rob Kew said: "The safety of our students and staff is our priority and we have worked very closely with health and safety experts."

# MENTAL HEALTH CARE'S KEY ROLE

**MORE than one in five detained mental patients freed from being sectioned by a health trust are later readmitted.**

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust released 49 people from its medium and low secure units in the last financial year, but 11 of them returned to the units – eight in the same year, figures have revealed.

The ratio was even higher in 2011/12 when a total of 141 patients were readmitted out of 57 discharged.

The health trust hit the headlines last year when it emerged it had assessed Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins's killer Phillip Simelane in prison but he received no supervision following release.

Three months later he stabbed to death the 16-year-old on her way to school on a bus in Birmingham.

He has now been detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act.

### Vital

The figures for readmitted patients show appropriate treatment must be given to patients for their health and public safety, according to Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

Mr Morris, who chairs the all-party parliamentary group on mental health, said: "This underlines why it is vital that mental health care must treat underlying conditions instead of just prescribing drugs to address immediate symptoms of psychosis."

"Helping people to recover from serious mental health conditions helps to reduce crime, is good for the economy, and most importantly, transforms the lives of the people affected and their families."

A spokesman for the trust said some patients were readmitted due to the risk they pose to themselves and to the public.

### Report by Alex Ross

He said: "There are a number of typical reasons for patients being readmitted. Medical staff might be concerned about a deterioration in a patient's mental health that poses a risk to their own safety or that of others."

"In some cases there is an issue with their medication or a de-stabilisation in a patient's environment that affects their mental health, for example a problem with their accommodation."

"In such cases a decision might be made to readmit the patient so that they can receive the appropriate support in inpatient services before any further deterioration in their mental health or increase in risk occurs."

He added: "This is in the best interests of the patients, carers and the public."

A review involving the mental health trust and partnership agencies is being carried out into the case.

It is being headed by the Central Midlands Commissioning Support Unit and had set to be published last month.

James Turner, the unit's senior communications manager, said it would be ready later this year.

## Celebrate with the lizards of Oz



Carpet pythons Phil and Grant with Sam Grove get ready for a busy weekend marking Australia Day at Dudley Zoo with Antipodean creatures also including lizards, insects, kangaroos, kookaburras and wallabies

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo will be transported Down Under to mark Australia Day this weekend.

Presenters will be giving a series of talks about some of the more unusual creatures from Oz within the attractions's collection.

They include bearded dragons, Macleays spectre stick insects, blue-tongued skink and chestnut teal alongside carpet pythons Phil and Grant, who will be in the recently remodelled reptile enclosure.

The revamp, which was designed by head gardener, Carl Stevens, features a pool, rockery, plants, branches and heat lamp plus a large front-opening double window, which offers visitors a better view.

### Kangaroos

Other Aussie wildlife including kangaroos, wallabies and kookaburras will be helping to mark Australia Day at the 40-acre site on Sunday.

Presenter, Pam Midwood, said: "We have quite a variety of native Aus-

tralian species at Dudley Zoo, including a few surprises that people often don't consider to be from that part of the world."

"Our Oz animals range across the whole site so why not come along this weekend to see if you can spot them all."

Australia Day is celebrated annually on January 26 which marks the anniversary of the 1788 arrival of the First Fleet of British Ships at Sydney Cove, New South Wales.

## Fast food plans for town get a setback

PLANS to build two new fast food restaurants as part of a multi-million pound development in Stourbridge have been withdrawn but bosses say they remain committed to developing the site.

McDonald's and KFC are looking to open drive-thru branches on a site off Mill Race Lane on the outskirts of the town centre.

A planning application for the scheme, which would create more than 100 jobs, had been lodged with the council.

### Future

The scheme would see McDonald's return to the town for the first time since it closed its branch in the High Street in 2008. The nearest one is at Lye while KFC's closest restaurant is at Ambicote.

A spokesman for KFC said: "The application in Stourbridge has been withdrawn whilst we gather additional information for the local planning authority. "We are still committed to submitting an application for the future development of this site, which has been derelict for many years."

The site was formerly the Hayes factory and buildings were demolished in 2010.

The plans have sparked some opposition from neighbouring businesses.

## M5 junction night closure

THE M5 will be closed at its Quinton junction overnight for one week so a bridge can be repaired.

The northbound carriageway will be closed at junction 3, the Quinton Interchange, from 8pm to 6am each night for one week from Monday.

The Highways Agency says closures are necessary for the repair of the bridge over junction 3. Northbound traffic will be diverted off the motorway at junction 3 and will re-join the M5 on the northern side of the junction.

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## NEWS

## CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
News Feature	6
Letters	7
What's On	25
TV Listings	26 - 28
Puzzler	29
Property	30 - 31
Motoring	32 - 33
Classified	34 - 38
Sport	39 - 40

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## Family of biker say justice has been done



Motorcyclist Allan Green

THE family of a motorcyclist killed in a crash say they can sleep easier knowing justice has been done after a motorist was found guilty of causing his death.

Richard Edmonds, of Bewdley, was found guilty of causing the crash which led to the death of keen biker Allan Green, of Cradley Heath. He was sentenced to four months, suspended for a year, and banned from the road for three years.

Mr Green's family, who were at

Stafford Crown Court to hear the sentence, said it was a fair ruling. His widow Audrey, aged 66, his son Gavin and daughter Claire Walker, 32, spoke after the verdict.

Son Gavin, 42, said: "We are glad the case has come to the right conclusion."

"It has been 15 months since my dad passed away and it has been a very hard and distressing time for us as a family."

"We thought that the sentence was very fair, although it would have been

good to see him banned from the road for good. We can sleep a bit easier knowing that justice has been done, even though it won't bring dad back."

The family said Mr Green, a motorbike enthusiast, was travelling from his home to meet biking friends at the Pit Stop cafe at Quatford when the crash happened.

Mrs Green added: "He loved life and was the heart and soul of our family and he was very interested in bikes."

## Death crash driver, 82, has walked free

## Driving force for special days



Rajpal Singh Jogi and Louise Valducci with the Le Seyde car at Storage King

A BUSINESSMAN who imported a unique car from America is to double his fleet due to an unprecedented demand for his wedding car services and the support of a local storage company.

Rajpal Singh Jogi bought the striking Mitsuoka Le Seyde vehicle – a coach built car with outrageous styling – via the internet, and believes it to be the only example in the country. Mr Jogi has run a wedding stationery business for more than 40 years in Birmingham and decided to offer the car as a new service to brides looking for a more unusual form of transport.

The decision has proved to be such a success that another oversized vehicle is

now on order, and he is moving to a larger unit at the Storage King self-storage facility in Birmingham Road, West Bromwich.

Mr Jogi, of Soho Road, Handsworth, said: "We have 30 weddings booked so far this year so we are expanding by investing in another car and bigger storage facilities, which provide me with easy access and plenty of space to operate from."

"Despite its size, the chauffeur-driven car is quite easy to manoeuvre and has very loud external speakers to provide music for when the bride arrives. For brides to arrive in such style adds that special touch to the occasion and we are amazed at the interest it has raised."

## AN 82-year-old driver has been found guilty of causing the death of a motorcyclist in a horror crash – and walked free from court.

Rider Allan Green, of Cradley Heath, was flung 130ft from his motorcycle and died in the crash caused by Richard Edmonds when he pulled out of a junction onto the A458 near Bobbington.

Edmonds' Vauxhall Corsa emerged from Six Ashes Road crossroads onto the main road when it collided with Mr Green's BMW R1200 motorbike on October 30, 2012.

Father-of-two Mr Green, 66, a retired fabricator welder, from Gawn Lane, suffered multiple injuries. He died at the scene.

Both vehicles caught fire because of the impact of the crash and Edmonds had to be pulled from the Corsa by bystanders moments before it burst into flames.

## Tears

With tears streaming down his face, Edmonds told Stafford Crown Court the 'horror' of seeing flames engulf his car as his leg was trapped beneath the steering wheel.

"I couldn't get out of the car – my door was being engulfed by flames," said Edmonds, who denied the charge of driving without due care and attention.

"Two people broke open the passenger door and they were shouting 'you've got to get out, it's going to blow'. They said 'we've got to get you, you're going to die'. Once I was out of the car, I was on my hands and knees – my legs were like jelly."

"Some people then gave me a chair and a lady gave me a blanket from her car because I was shaking. The woman said 'put your head on my shoulder'. She asked 'who are you?', but I couldn't remember my name. She then put the blanket over my head and the car exploded."



Guilty – Richard Edmonds

"I've had a lot of counselling to get over this."

Edmonds added that he was completely certain the road was clear when he pulled out to turn right, having checked nothing was coming either way repeatedly. But, when asked by prosecutor Mr Andrew Jackson whether he looked to the left once he was in the carriageway having heard what he described as a 'roaring noise', Edmonds replied 'no'.

"If you'd have looked, there's a chance of you being able to take action to avoid the accident, or brake," said Mr Jackson. "Yes, sir," replied Edmonds.

He was sentenced to four months in jail, suspended for a year, after being found guilty by a jury of driving without due care causing the death of Mr Green.

Edmonds, a freelance journalist of Dowles Road, Bewdley, was banned from the road for three years and told he must take an extended driving test before he can be allowed back behind the wheel.

## Zoo is to have new entrance

FINAL preparations are being made ahead of work getting under way on the next stage of a £10.1million masterplan to link three of the Black Country's biggest tourist attractions – Dudley Zoo, the castle and the Black Country Museum.

A new visitor entrance for the zoo is part of the work aimed at boosting visiting numbers. It will be built at the back of the existing car park behind JB's in Castle Hill.

Revised plans have been lodged with Dudley Council by the zoo.

## Sculptures

Chief executive Peter Suddock said: "We'll be getting started very soon and will have most of it completed by the summer."

An open piazza is planned with animal sculptures and seating. As part of the scheme, a joint 600-space car park at the back of the site is also being built.

A route will also link the three attractions.

A visitor hub will also be created to provide visitors with information about all three sites.

## Prison term appeal fails

A BUSINESSMAN jailed for not clearing a towering rubbish pile has failed to quash his sentence and be freed.

Robert McNaughton was sentenced to six months in prison for contempt of court after failing to meet deadlines to remove waste from Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd in Moor Street, Brierley Hill.

Last week he applied to crush the ruling and be released from prison at a hearing at the High Court in Leicester.

But after hearing evidence from the Environment Agency in court, Mr Justice Haddon-Cave dismissed the application and returned Mr McNaughton to prison.

## Pub will go

A VICTORIAN pub will be demolished and replaced with two large houses, under plans recently approved.

A three-bedroom and a four-bedroom house will be built following the knocking down of the Prince of Wales in Tipton Road in Woodseton.

The pub was built in 1850.

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## Woman is jailed for bike theft

A WOMAN who carried out a £1,600 burglary at the family home of a former boyfriend has been jailed for 15 months.

Joanne Mulholland, 25, broke into the house in Penfields Road, Stourbridge, with 19-year-old Andrew Carr on August 22, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The couple, who both have previous convictions, were seen by a neighbour putting a mini scrambler bike into a taxi, said prosecutor Mr Kevin Jones.

The owner, who had allowed Mulholland to live at the house while she was going out with his son, returned home to find the Suzuki machine had been stolen along with jewellery, a TV and a laptop. None of the items have been recovered.

Carr was on bail at the time after breaking in to another house and stealing a TV.

Miss Samantha Powis, defending, said Mulholland of William Street, Brierley Hill, wanted money to buy food. She admitted the Penfields Road burglary and was put behind bars for one year, and three months. Carr, who pleaded guilty to both break-ins, was sentenced to 26 months in a Young Offenders Institution.

## Two in court after attack

Two men have appeared in court charged with robbing a man who was allegedly left with a fractured skull.

Ross Biles, 20, and Rikki Walters, 26, both of no fixed address, are accused of robbing Edward Owens and stealing a mobile phone in an alleged incident at Swan Street, Netherton. Biles is also charged with possessing cannabis. Dudley magistrates remanded them to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on April 9.

Walters was remanded in custody. Biles was allowed bail on condition he lives in Biddale Court, Gornal, and abides by a curfew.

## Rotary bonanza

CHARITIES across the Black Country are amongst those set to benefit after Rotary clubs raised more than £175,000 during its annual Christmas fundraising drive. The bumper total was raised by clubs operating in two Rotary districts covering parts of Staffordshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands.

# Mother dies after 'inspirational' cancer battle

HER four-year battle with cancer has been described as 'inspirational'.

Debbie Hickman, who turned her hand to careers as varied as marketing and farming before moving to New York has died at the age of 58.

Born in Kingswinford, her father was property developer Jeffrey Hickman, owner of the Hickman-Stanmore construction group.

She was married to Martin Dunn, who began his journalistic career on the former Dudley Herald, and went on to become editor-in-chief of the New York Daily News, where he was

once reputed to be the highest-paid newspaper editor in the world.

Following her death earlier this month Mr Dunn said: "For four years, Debbie's struggle against cancer was an inspiration to everyone who knew her."

Ms Hickman leaves children Tomjo and Bertie.

Although she was born in the Black Country her family moved when she was a child to Bridgnorth. After attending Alice Otley School, Worcester, Ms Hickman worked in marketing. During the 1990s she

kept a farm in Crowle, Worcestershire.

Her future husband attended Dudley Grammar School until he was 17, when he joined the Dudley Herald as a £10-a-week trainee. The couple initially met through mutual friends in the 1970s, and rekindled their friendship more than 20 years later. Mr Dunn went to work in Boston, Massachusetts, but remained in touch with Ms Hickman.

In 1993 he became the editor of New York Daily News after signing a

£1 million-plus contract. He returned to Britain in 1996 to work on a cable television project, and became close to Ms Hickman.

The couple then moved to the US where Mr Dunn returned for a second spell in charge of the New York Daily News, and remained at the paper until July 2010 when he announced his wife was ill. Debbie died at her home in Greenwich, Connecticut on January 11 with her family at her side. A memorial service was being held in Chaddesley Corbett yesterday.



Debbie Hickman

# Shoddy work could have poisoned elderly resident

A GAS fitter left an elderly man at risk of exposure to carbon monoxide poisoning after failing to fix a part to a boiler correctly, a court heard.

At another property Paul Cresswell installed dangerous wiring that could have left a live current running through pipework, heard Dudley Magistrates' Court.

Cresswell had been working illegally on gas installations at two homes in Stourbridge without registering with the authorities. An investigation was launched by the Health and Safety Executive into his work after one of the residents complained.

## Lapse

He had displayed Gas Safe signage on his van, falsely indicating he was authorised to work on gas appliances. Mr Cresswell had been registered with Gas Safe between July 7, 2011, and July 6, 2012, but allowed his registration to lapse.

Cresswell, aged 44, of Beccles Drive, Willenhall, pleaded guilty to four charges of contravening health and safety regulations at an earlier hearing.

He received a 12-month community order and was told to complete 180 hours unpaid work in the community. He also has to pay costs of £1,270.14 to the Health and Safety Executive.

A previous hearing was told that work Cresswell

by Andrew Turton

carried out at a flat in Hanbury Court, Stourbridge, was so poor that there was a 'realistic and probable' chance of carbon monoxide entering the property because he had failed to fix a flue correctly.

The court heard previously that he carried out shoddy work at a house in Vale Street, where wiring he installed had the potential for pipes to become live.

Mr Lee Preston, defending, referring to the potential carbon monoxide problem, said: "He did not have his Gas Safe card accreditation at the time so he could not sign off on the installation."

He said Cresswell maintained he had told the customer that it could not be used. However, the court heard that the pensioner had been using the boiler.

District Judge Michael Wheeler said: "I take into account that these are serious allegations."

## Families are evacuated

TWO families, including one with a baby, were evacuated from their flats when cracks opened up in the walls and kitchen surfaces began to move.

Firefighters were called to the three-storey building in High Street, Lye, by a concerned resident living in one of two flats. They discovered the building was unstable due to work being carried out to knock down a wall between two ground floor shops. The decision was made to evacuate the eight residents.

## Furry friends venture

CERI Davies is on the road with some larger than life characters – and it's all in a good cause.

Wheelchair-user Ceri, aged 24, has been raising money and campaigning for children and young people since the age of 13, despite suffering from cerebral palsy and spina bifida.

Now she has set up a not-for-profit company More Mascots Please CIC to offer character appearances for events in the Black Country and Birmingham.

## Children

The Kingswinford-based company is raising money to help children and young people with disabilities and terminal illness.

The former Olympic torch bearer has a team of six fellow company directors and volunteers for a cast of mascots, including Mintie and Melanie dogs and Banoffie the Beaver, donated by mascot company Costumes with Character. Recent additions include Peppa Pig and a Spiderman.

The entrepreneur, of Vernier Avenue, Kingswinford, has also won an award from Think Big and Unltd to sponsor the business in the coming year. So far, More Mascots Please has raised a total of £650.



Former Olympic torchbearer Ceri Davies is given a helping hand by Banoffie the Beaver

## NEWS in brief

### 'Mindless' raid on repair workshop

RAM-RAIDERS drove a car into the doors of a car repair garage but left empty handed.

Police and fire crews were called to the unit on Mill Street in Brierley Hill, close to the junction with the A461 Venture Way, at around 4.30am Sunday.

Shane Gregg, aged 45, who leases the unit with a friend to use as a workshop, said there had been nothing of significant value inside for the raiders to steal.

He said: "It's just totally mindless. I can't understand them."

### Repairs centre staff are praised

A CALL centre dealing with repairs for housing association tenants has received recognition.

Dudley Council's repairs management centre was found to be of a global standard as part of its Call Centre Association centre accreditation, which it has maintained for 12 years. Housing boss Councillor Steve Walther said the achievement is a reflection of the commitment and drive of the staff at the centre.

### MP backs project for musical youth

A MUSIC company has been praised by an MP for its work supporting disadvantaged young people.

Stourbridge MP Margot James was given a tour of Base Studios in the town. She met director Warren Evans and the team to learn about their community work. Base Studios uses money generated from commercial endeavours to help young people with a passion for music.

### Tea room to open at timber firm site

A TEA room will open after plans were approved. Officers gave the proposal for the shop in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, the go-ahead.

It will replace Swinford Timber Supplies, which has been at the site for more than 40 years.

The tea room will have six car parking spaces.

### Make trinket box at leather museum

A WORKSHOP at a museum will give people the chance to make a leather covered trinket box. The session at Walsall Leather Museum on February 1 from 10am to 4pm costs £25. Call 01922 721153 to book a place.

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OF PETER  
RHODES

A FRIEND dropped in with the January glow that comes of being on the latest diet. This time it's the 4:3 diet which involves eating a lot on four days and a little on the other three. Or maybe it's the other way around. It hardly matters because, by the time this appears in print, there will probably be an even newer, better diet which instantly relegates all previous diets to the dustbin. All science changes its mind from time to time but nothing changes faster than the science of humans trying to lose weight. Apart, of course, from the science of climate change.

□□□□□□□□

IN A landmark case, an Afghan man has been granted asylum in Britain because he has renounced Islam to become an atheist. He fears he would be killed if he returned to his homeland. After Fusilier Lee Rigby was murdered on the streets of Woolwich, what makes him think he's any safer in England than in Kabul?

□□□□□□□□

A READER writes: "Yesterday I accidentally drove over Dave while getting into the car." Turns out Dave was the name of the sat-nav which had served him and his wife loyally for 10 years. They miss his voice. He wonders whether other readers give their sat-navs names.

□□□□□□□□

HERE'S something that could never possibly happen in a democracy. You get a demand to pay £145.50 towards somebody else's pension. If you don't pay you will get a criminal record and could end up in prison. It is happening. The BBC is taking £740 million of TV licence payers' money to help plug a £2 billion hole in its pension fund. The equivalent of five million viewers' fees will be spent not on making programmes but to ensure BBC employees spend their retirement in rather more comfort than most of us can expect.

□□□□□□□□

SO what do the following countries have in common: Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Hungary, Iceland and Holland? They're among the 14 countries in the world which once had TV licences but had the good sense to scrap them. The sooner we do the same, the better.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Major community role for borough children's centres

HEALTH workers will be asked to advise more families to use services at children's centres in Dudley in a bid to boost visitor numbers as part of revamp plans.

It is one of the recommendations being considered by councillors following a consultation into their future.

Another proposal is to increase the services that are offered at the centres, which would help reduce costs.

by Heather Large

A consultation was launched after council bosses announced seven of the borough's 20 centres would close in a bid to save £2.3m.

## Outrage

But Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks was forced to make a U-turn after the plans sparked outrage and campaigners took to the streets.

Now proposals are being considered which would see centres encouraged to work with other services such as credit unions, citizen's advice surgeries and health clinics. They would also be promoted as a meeting place for different community groups.

A report, which will be discussed by the council's overview and scrutiny management board, said: "Committee members recognise that savings need to be made in the current financial climate but also note that

leading up to 2015 there will be significant opportunities for local partners – the local authority, health, voluntary groups and others – to offer greater integration in the delivery of services, including early intervention.

It adds: "Local partners should explore opportunities for children's centres to become community hubs for health, social care and other services – such as credit unions, citizens' advice surgeries and be the meeting place of choice for community groups."

The report also says that is believed there are 'untapped opportunities' to improve the reach of children's centres.

More than 1,000 people have responded to the consultation.

Across the borough, about 15,000 children use the centres. After the proposal to close seven, parents voiced their opposition.

## Signs of success for Chris and Benji



Signwriter Chris Cook has set up a new business at the Red House Glass Cone

THE writing was on the wall when Chris Cook's business outgrew the garage at his home. Now signwriter Chris has moved into a studio at the Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley, along with his companion, Benji the West Highland terrier.

Chris, 37, who was brought up in Oldbury, runs AKC – named after his late father, Arthur Kenneth Cook – and counts Estée Lauder among his biggest clients. He started the business up at his Wordsley home eight years ago but it was getting too big.

As a fan of old buildings and industrial architecture, he felt drawn to the 18th century cone – now a museum and crafts centre – for his new base.

He had also designed signs for two of the cone's other businesses, the Red Cone Coffee House and SMD Clocks, Crafts and Stained Glass. And, when he found there was a vacant studio, complete with exposed brickwork and hefty wooden beams, he knew it was just the place for his expanding business.

Chris designs, manufactures and installs vinyl signs and he recently turned Manchester's branch of Selfridges pink for breast cancer awareness.

In 2012 he wrapped his van in pink vinyl to raise £4,500 for Cancer Research and MacMillan Cancer Support – another tribute to his father, who died aged in his mid 60s from cancer 16 years ago.

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# Call on Centro to cut running costs before reducing services

**RUNNING costs should be cut at the region's transport authority before free train and tram travel for pensioners 'because they built this country', says a council leader**

West Midlands transport authority Centro says it has to slash £14 million from its £146m annual budget because the cash-strapped councils that fund it have been forced to make cuts of their own. It has launched a consultation on the proposals, which also include cutting the budget of the door-to-door Ring and Ride service used by pensioners and disabled people.

However, Sandwell Council leader, Councillor Darren Cooper, highlighted that Centro spends around £19.5m on its operational costs – such as buildings, management and staff. He says Centro must trim that bill before 'attacking' the services it is tasked with providing.

Leaders of the seven West Midlands district councils that fund Centro – Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull – asked Centro to consult on ways to cut 10 per cent from its budget.

Councillor Cooper said: "Why are they even thinking about taking the money out of

frontline services rather than looking at reducing operational costs?

"Once they did that, perhaps they would not be talking about stopping a free rail and tram pass. And Ring and Ride is a vital service to many vulnerable people.

## Message

"There are other ways of doing this. I think service users may also pay a bit more to keep these services going.

"I will be driving the message that pensioners should not be the ones that should be getting attacked. They built this country."

Cost-cutting would not affect free bus travel for pensioners and the disabled between 9.30am and 11pm, which Centro is obliged by the government to fund. But it must find £14m savings over the next two years.

Centro chairman, Councillor John McNicholas, said it had already cut £3m out of its operational costs in four years and planned to find an extra £3m savings by further reductions in operations.

He added: "A £14 million reduction in Centro's budget would require some extremely tough choices to be made."

Centro will decide on its budget on February 14.

## Tenants brace themselves for rent hike

RENTS for Sandwell Council tenants are set to rise by 3.8 per cent in a move that would see thousands of tenants pay around £150 extra a year.

Cash-strapped Sandwell Council, which must make cuts of £100 million by 2017,

said it has no option but to increase charges. Bosses said they plan to keep the rise below the Government's guideline.

The move would affect around 29,000 families. Bosses are being recommended to approve an

average rent rise of 3.8 per cent increase from April at a meeting in coming weeks.

Councillor Steve Eling, the authority's deputy leader and finance chief, said: "We don't want to have to put rents up but we have no choice."



Celebrating long service are John Edwards, Judith Veness, Pam Dawes and Paula Clark

## Thanks for NHS service

CELEBRATIONS have been held to honour hospital staff who have clocked up centuries of service between them. Almost 50 nurses, doctors, radiographers and administrators were among those at a ceremony at RusSELL Hall Hospital.

They had all reached between 15 and 45 years' of service in the previous six months and included 40-year veterans clerical officer Pam Dawes and senior radiographer and X-ray manager Judith Veness.

They were presented with a certificate and badge by Chief Executive Paula Clark and Chairman John Edwards at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's Long Service awards.

Paula Clark said: "Our staff are our best and most valuable asset and it is great to be able to thank them, in a small way, for working hard to give our patients the very best care."

## NEWS in brief

### History talks on agenda at library

A LIBRARY is launching a programme of Black Country history talks. Historians will give presentations at Tipton Library on Unity Walk, Owen Street. Keith Hodgkins will hold a talk entitled 'In search of Horseley bridges' on February 20 at 10.30am.

Then Chris Smith will present 'Letters from the Front', a selection of stories based on letters sent from soldiers in the First World War, on March 20 from 10.30am.

Talks are free admission by advance ticket, call 0121 557 1796.

### Classical singing trio performance

SINGERS The Three Tones will be appearing in Halesowen.

Local singer Neil helped establish the group. Teodoro DeCastillo, from Italy, and Anthony Barnett, from Southampton, complete the classical trio.

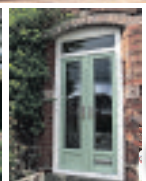
The show is on February 7 at Hasbury Conservative Club, Blackberry Lane, at 8pm. Tickets cost £10, 0121 550 3899.

### Book for ramble on the Clent Hills

RAMBLERS are invited on a New Year walk at a beauty spot on January 26. The six-mile ramble around the Clent Hills, starts at 10am from Nimmings Wood car park and is £2. Call 01562 712822.

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## NEWS FEATURE

## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

THIS time last week, I wonder how many people outside the West Midlands football community would have known that West Bromwich Albion were sponsored by property website Zoopla.

But now the Baggies have been ditched by Zoopla following the row about Anelka's hand gesture, all of Britain knows. And probably half of France for that matter.

It's a strange world, this public relations lark. A company spends £3 million on a sponsorship deal with a Premier League football club, and nobody bats an eyelid. It then says it will no longer be sponsoring the same club, and its name (and thus its website address) is at the front of every news bulletin.

Anelka now has to face an FA disciplinary committee, and I have no idea how it will all pan out.

But I think we all know who the winner is...

A FRIEND observes that the controversial Channel 4 series *Benefits Street* is a bit like *Sesame Street*.

"Both programmes have a black living out of a bin and people trying to learn the alphabet."

And a big bird, of course.

ANOTHER friend recently renewed her car tax on the official Government website, and once it was all done, they automatically redirected her to the organ donor register.

"Not only have I just given away £175, but all my innards too," she observed.

ED Miliband is calling for the break up of our big banks, saying they have become too powerful and there is a need for more competition.

Too right, it makes you wonder how they ever became so big in the first place.

Some reckon there was this politician chappie, who became concerned when one of the big banks in his own backyard got into trouble, and persuaded another big bank to take it over, creating the biggest bank in the world.

Then when the even bigger bank got into even bigger trouble, he arranged for the taxpayer to step in and nationalise it.

Something about saving the world, he said.

Can't remember his name, but vaguely remember a grumpy Scotsman with a lanky, gawky sidekick.

Wonder what happened to him?



Liam Payne during the X Factor auditions



Liam meets fan Claire Peake in Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Centre



The star shows off some of his tattoos on stage

# Is high-flying Liam feeling the pressure?

As more antics involving one of the Black Country's most famous sons – Liam Payne – hit the headlines,

ELIZABETH JOYCE looks at the costly price of fame

**THE FAME game is a difficult one to play. Certainly those in it may think they have the career that they always dreamed of, millions in the bank and adoring fans – but all of that comes with a price.**

The 24-hour glare of the paparazzi, the inability to pop out for a pint of milk without being mobbed, the pressure of being a role model; all of it can take its toll.

And it seems it's the younger stars who feel its effects the most, who can't help but crack a little under the pressure. Concerns have been raised in recent months about Miley Cyrus, Justin Bieber, Rihanna and now our very own Liam Payne.

Just a few years ago, Liam was a normal Wolverhampton lad. He'd go to the Hawthorns to watch his beloved Baggies, enjoy family meals at The Spread Eagle pub in Gailey and get stuck into his studies at Wolverhampton College.

Now, he's in the biggest boyband on the planet, with millions of people around the world watching his every move.

He's gone from living with his mum, dad and sisters in Bushbury to a swanky London skyscraper, where fans camp out each and every day just to get a glimpse of their idol.

He may be only 20 years old, but Liam's days of anonymity are already well and truly over.

And it's something he's clearly struggling to come to terms with, taking to Twitter in the last 24 hours to ask for a bit of peace. "I know my friends have tweeted a lot of pictures of my house the past few days but can people please stop coming and waiting outside," he posted.



Liam, centre, with his One Direction bandmates Niall, Louis, Zayn and Harry

"I'd just like to be able to walk outside as everyone does and enjoy time with my friends, not feel bad for not wanting to take a picture. Sorry if

I've been rude to anyone but I've come to realise if I take one picture more people keep coming everyday."

But, just a few hours after these messages went up to his 15 million-plus Twitter followers, Liam caused even more concern when a picture emerged of him standing on the edge of the balcony of his 34th-floor apartment. While the adoring army of One Directioners have jumped to his

defence, saying he's just acting like a normal 20-year-old lad messing about with his friends, many others have accused him of being irresponsible and reckless.

It may have only been a second out on that ledge but within seconds of the picture being posted online, fans across the globe were talking about it.

Many berated their hero for giving them a scare.

One wrote: "That photo of @Real\_Liam\_Payne on that balcony really gave me a mini heart attack ... please don't do that again!"

While another tweeted: "@Real\_Liam\_Payne should stop thinking he's Batman, when he's not ... Stop climbing on your balcony!"

The photo was posted by one of his friends but has since been deleted. Should Liam have known better? Should his friends? Is there ever a right answer in the fame game?

It often seems the only way stars learn, is the hard way.

## Dangerous

Whether he likes it or not, Liam's a role model now and, sure enough – more than likely encouraged by management obsessed with preserving the 1D brand – he posted an apology, admitting it was "stupid and extremely dangerous".

That night, he was hosting three of his old friends from Wolverhampton, showing them the sights and sounds of London and clubs such as Funky Buddha – in that respect, he's still very much just a normal lad.

He just wants to hang out with his mates and girlfriend, Sophia Smith, whenever he gets a spare five minutes away from the gruelling schedule of 1D.

But, as he appears to be learning the hard way, life is now completely different for our hometown superstar.

**Our advice? Come back home to Wolver for a while and get your feet well and truly back on the ground – not 360ft high ...**

## THROUGH THE YEARS

### 1983...

PAUL McCartney declared he would never touch cannabis again after being fined by a court in Barbados. When he was asked if he truly meant that, he grinned and replied: "Probably not."

LEADERS of the West Midlands police committee were so disgusted that they walked out of a private screening of 'video nasties'. Members of the committee had been shown clips of films at the centre of a case at Dudley Crown Court, which saw a video shop owner convicted of obscenity charges in a legal test case.

A MILKMAN charged with showing an indecent video on a football coach as it travelled along the M6 in Walsall was cleared by the town's magistrates. The man, from Manchester, had been travelling back with colleagues from Express Dairies from the previous year's Milk Cup Final between Liverpool and Manchester United.

### 1993...

SHOWBUSINESS stars Roy Castle, Harry Secombe and Ruth Madoc were left stunned as the curtain fell suddenly on Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre where they were performing. The 93-year-old venue shut after running up massive debts, and it emerged it had even tried to sell its seats, curtains and chandeliers in a last-ditch bid to stay afloat.

NINE hippies refused to budge from two stone cottages on the edge of a 100ft cliff on the Isle of Wight, despite police warnings that they were in severe danger after torrential rain triggered a major landslide.

BRITISH politicians were letting the side down in the style stakes, according to survey by an image consultancy. Chancellor of the Exchequer Ken Clarke was voted the scruffiest, with a suit which looked like it had been slept in was the withering verdict.

### 2003...

PREMIERSHIP strugglers Wolves pulled off a sensational win over champions Manchester United. Kenny Miller scored the only goal of the game at Molineux in the 67th minute, although Wolves remained second-from-bottom of the table.

NINETEEN jobs were lost as struggling record chain Our Price closed three stores in the West Midlands. The company, which had been in administration since November, closed its stores in Dudley, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

HOME Secretary David Blunkett revealed that his initial reaction to the suicide of killer GP Dr Harold Shipman was to open a bottle of bubbly. Shipman had been found hanging in his cell at Wakefield Prison.

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## LETTERS

## Put Hagley before Hartlebury

NO doubt the Stourbridge Line User Group is pleased with the improved train service at Hartlebury but SLUG's publicity for the new timetable omits to mention that at the same time the service from my nearest station, Hagley, has also been revised so that there are no longer any direct trains to Worcester for most of the day. A change of trains at Kidderminster is now required, adding 10 minutes or so to the journey time.

The former half-hourly service also has a random one hour gap in it at lunchtime.

London Midland tell me that the new Hagley service pattern is connected with other changes which benefit a majority of

rail users. I am sure Hagley is much better used than Hartlebury, which is nowhere near the village it claims to serve. On four train stops there so far I have seen a total of one passenger.

I hope that London Midland will monitor usage at Hartlebury and also rectify the error they have made with the Hagley service.

I also hope that SLUG will add this to their list of objectives for 2014.

MR S PILBOROUGH  
Bell Meadow  
Stourbridge

## LETTERS to the Editor

## POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle  
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## Any work is better than benefits – even this?

SOME say that any work is better than benefits, but is this actually true?

In medieval time vagabonds and villains where put into stocks as a form of public ridicule and punishment. The 21st century version of the stocks – for not being able to get a proper form of employment – are the poor souls being forced to walk our streets in all weathers wearing cardboard advertising boards for the large fast food retailers.

It must be mind numbingly boring and soul-destroying to have to walk the streets all day as a form of mobile A-board. What has British society become?

What has happened to the Labour party and the trade unions to allow this humiliation to continue in 21st Century Great Britain?

G E FANTHOM  
Swindon Village

## Waste collection praise

I TAKE issue with Mark Lewis's comments regarding the collection of waste in the Dudley area. Since taking delivery of my various containers for recycling of plastic, cans, glass, paper and cardboard, I have noticed that the amount of my non-recyclable rubbish has fallen by at least a half. It follows that the cost of landfill tax paid by Dudley council will also fall as a result of less rubbish being diverted to landfill.

The recycled product may also attract an income. The market for recyclable products rises and falls, and it is possible that when the market for waste cardboard, plastic, glass, etc. is high, Dudley will receive some income for these items. I know whereof I speak, having worked in the recycling industry for many years.

Judging by the many containers left out on collection days, I believe I am not alone in my efforts to recycle. I also note that my visits to the local recycling centre to dump my recyclable waste have also diminished. In my opinion the waste collection now in operation is a major improvement.

The next step in the chain would be the burning of the non-recyclable waste in incinerators to produce power, thus further reducing the amount of landfill. However, that proposal is likely to draw major objections from the NIMBYs of this world.

TREVOR MANSELL  
Gigmill Way  
Norton

## Heritage site plan sparking road fear

THE approval by Dudley Council to change the use at the former railway goods shed – a listed heritage asset – at Lye station into a waste processing plant operated by Ecology Waste Solutions Ltd has potential dangers and inconvenience to pedestrians and road users.

Although there were some letters of objection, the application was bound to succeed because I believe it is part of the council's extension of their of the recycling activities, with this site processing plastic, card paper and glass.

I envisage many vehicles coming and going. Access to the site is via the passenger station drive, partly cobbled stone from the days of the GWR horse-draw vehicles, and the narrow entrance at the junction with the busy Dudley Road the A4036.

At this point there is a blind spot to two traffic lanes in the Lye Cross direction and a bottle-neck opposite where two lanes merge into one a major route to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

No restrictions or monitoring has been imposed, so there might be all day and nightly operations and no limits on size/tonnage of the vehicles transporting the materials.

The passenger station is now unstaffed, so who will be looking after the interests and safety of the rail users and the car parking?

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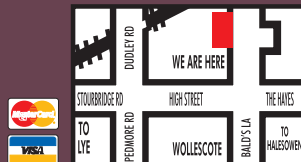
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## CLUB NEWS

Another year over for guild

# Chief's fascinating facts about his zoo

### WEDNESBURY TWG

FESTIVITIES for 2013 concluded with a delicious Christmas meal at the Wednesday Church Hill Social Club, with excellent entertainment provided by Tony Gold and his son.

The Craft Section also enjoyed lunch at the Kings Arms, Great Bridge. Thanks to Sue Neale for organising both events.

The usual Games Night also proved to be very popular as usual, with a buffet supper organised by Wendy Brown, Secretary, as a 'thank you' to guild members for their efforts.

Other recent activities have included a skittles evening, with a fish and chips supper. Guild members accepted an invitation to Afternoon Tea with the West Bromwich Guild and really enjoyed the occasion.

Members agreed that we should return their hospitality during 2014.

The final speaker for last year was Jacqueline Smith accompanied by her husband talking about their company - Nova Chocolates. Guild members were very interested, particularly when delicious samples were passed around during the demonstration.

It has been decided that as from Thursday April 10, meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month, still at 7pm, at the Wesley Centre, Spring Head, Wednesday, WS10 9AD and new members will be made very welcome.

### DUDLEY SOUTH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones wished everyone a Happy New Year at the January luncheon at the Kingfisher Hotel Wall Heath.

An excellent three-course meal was served, followed by speaker Mr Peter Suddock, the Chief Executive of Dudley Zoo. We learned that the Earl of Dudley's son loved zoos and so the Earl created Dudley Zoo for his birthday present.

They have 1500 animals 167 different species and are in the top five zoos in the country. In 2013 250,000 visitors passed through the gates, including many Asian and Polish families. Thanks to Heritage funding and grants from the Council many of the unique 1937 buildings are being repaired and the Bear Ravine should be up and running by late summer.

Also planned is a new entrance and large car park leading into the Safari Gift Shop. They are very proud of the new Sumatran male tiger Joao, a mate for their female Deseed, who is one of the most important big cats in the world and vital her bloodline continues, as there are only 140 left in the wild. With a dedicated staff of 80 a further £3.05 million is in



Jan Burrows and Ann Rogers - committee members, Peter Suddock - chief executive of Dudley Zoo and chairman Mary Jones

place for a four year programme. Pauline Handley has completed the programme for 2014/15 and an outing in the spring is under discussion. The February meeting will be the AGM and in March speaker Mr John Modderley asks: Do you remember when?

Meetings are held on the second Friday each month 12pm to 12.30pm departing at 3pm. Visitors will receive a warm welcome - to find out more ring the Secretary on 01902 372984.

## Freeze on subscription fees

DANCING at Kingswinford Folk Dance Club was interrupted so that members could hold their annual general meeting.

An overview of the previous year's activities was given and as a result of the discussion which followed, it was decided that the annual subscription could be held at £2.50 per person for another year. Admission fees could also be maintained at the

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present rate. Members said how much they enjoyed the current format and also how good it was to have an occasional Guest Caller. Dancing then resumed with added vigour.

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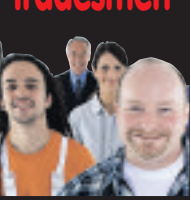
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## NEWS

# Church has found a way to halt decline



Church warden Brian Genner inside Christ Church which has undergone extensive restoration work worth £12,000

A DWINDLING congregation and crumbling building are common problems for churches across the country working hard to spread their faith.

But one church in Quarry Bank is managing to keep its Sunday churchgoers happy after spending thousands of pounds on a revamp.

Improvements at Christ Church in High Street include the porch entrance, cleaning stained glass windows, interior walls and even the

altar cross as part of the £12,000 scheme.

"It is all part of our approach at the church to make it more community-friendly and appealing," said joint churchwarden and treasurer Brian Genner.

"We believe it is working and we are seeing our numbers at services stabilise, we now want to welcome more people in."

"Before Christmas we had several services which were absolutely packed – I think that is a sign that it is working."

The first phase of the renovation

work included the main entrance porch to the building and the replastering of an interior wall.

The second stage saw the church's altar cross, two candlesticks and the eagle lectern taken away and cleaned by specialists in Stourport.

New glass doors were then installed and the church's stained glass windows cleaned up.

Mr Genner said: "The church is looking great inside and has proved popular with members."

Mr Genner said the church next had plans to do a complete redecoration of the interior – at a cost of £30,000.

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## NEWS

NEWS  
in brief**Death linked to an industrial disease**

A FORMER boiler fitter died after suffering from a condition linked to exposure to asbestos, an inquest heard.

Edward Darby had worked for British Steel at the Coombs Wood plant, in Halesowen.

Dudley Coroners Court heard Mr Darby had retired in 1993 due to ill health.

The widower died on April 10 last year at his home in Cromwell Close, Rowley Regis, aged 78.

Coroner Robin Balmain concluded death was due to industrial disease.

**Grants of up to £5k are available**

COMMUNITY groups are being urged to apply for up to £5,000 worth of grants.

They are being offered to community forums in Dudley to help fund individual community projects. People can bid for the cash either online or by attending one of the latest round of community forums taking place between January 28 and February 5. For more information visit <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/about/community-council>

**Talented pooch**

BRITAIN'S Got Talent winners Ashleigh and Pudsey will take to the stage at The Caravan and Camping Show at the NEC. The dog trick act that shot to fame on the TV show will perform on February 19 and 20 in the Dog Agility Theatre.

# Rare engraved glass goes on show at valuation day

**ORNATE** pieces of glass dating back more than 100 years and telling the story of a glass-maker at the forefront of a world famous industry have been rediscovered

For decades the collection of more than a dozen items had been in the cupboards of his relatives. But now they have been rediscovered ready to take pride of place at a heritage attraction for a new exhibition and valuation day.

by Alex Ross

The rare collection of engraved glass will go on display on Saturday at the event at Stourbridge's Ruskin Glass Centre in Wollaston Road.

**Bohemian**

Glassware engraver by William Kny created the pieces while working in Stourbridge around 1900. He was the son of Fredrick Ludwig Kny, one of the original Bohemian glass engravers that settled in the town in the 1850s.

He had 11 children and four of his sons became glass engravers setting up their own company at The Platts, in Brettell Lane.

Later the brothers disbanded their company and Ludwig Junior then began working at the well known Stuart Crystal works.

William Kny took up a post at Webb Corbett as an engraver and went on to become a director in the company.

The collection is owned by his granddaughter Margaret Tatler who found them in her home in Norton.

Mrs Tatler, aged 81, lived with her grandfather at his house off Market Street, Kingswinford.

"I just didn't realise how popular he is," said Mrs Tatler who has four children, 12 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

"There were all just in a cupboard really and when we found out the family said they would be happy for them to go on display."

"It is lovely to think that people will get to see them after all these years."

Families are being invited to dig out their heirlooms and take them along to be examined by experts during the valuation event on Saturday hosted by BBC Antiques Roadshow expert Will Farmer from Fieldings Auctioneers in Stourbridge.

Volunteers and members of Amblecote History Society will be on hand to provide an insight into the Stourbridge glass industry.

The event will run from 10am until 2pm. For details call 01384 399419.



Margaret Tatler, from Norton, with some of the glassware engraved by her grandfather William Kny which is going on display at the Ruskin Glass Centre

## Message via text led to car damage

A TEXT message row between a couple over their son wanting to leave home led to a husband attacking his wife's car, a court heard.

Richard Timmins, aged 48, damaged the wing and side mirrors of the vehicle and dented a panel by kicking it, Dudley Magistrates Court was told.

But now his wife of 28 years, Nicola Timmins, of Milking Bank, Dudley, has paid for the repairs to the car, said Mr Dennis Dudley, defending.

Timmins, currently living in Wilslow, Cheshire, admitted causing £1,000 damage to the vehicle. District Judge Michael Wheeler gave him a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered him to pay £85 costs and £15 victim surcharge.

Mr Dudley said Mrs Timmins now wanted him back. He added: "The irony is that although the vehicle is legally hers, he made all the payments on it."

Mr Dudley said the couple had been arguing by text message because their son was 'anxious' to leave home.

The judge told Timmins: "On the face of it there was significant damage. But I have taken into account the circumstances. Your wife expresses a desire to have you back after you were separated over Christmas and the new year."

"Don't take it out on a car next time you have a problem."

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## NEWS

# Village library is now facing closure threat

## Major venue funeral for inspirational Steve



His bravery moved thousands – Steve Evans with daughters Megan and Lauren and his wife Septina

THE funeral of an inspirational father who shared his story of living with incurable cancer with thousands of people over the radio and internet will be held at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall next month.

Steve Evans, 52, died last week after living with stomach cancer for more than two years. In that time the retired building surveyor gained more than 26,000 followers on Twitter and became a star guest on TV and radio.

The service, on February 3 at 12.30pm, will be the first time in the 75-year history of the Civic Hall that it has been used for a funeral and a huge turnout is expected.

Before he died at New Cross Hospital on Thursday, Steve asked his friend Sue Oakley to set up a JustGiving page to raise money for Compton Hospice. She has written on the page: "Steve's thoughts were that if everyone had sent flowers to his funeral, it would be like Kew Gardens, so I have set up this page, for people to donate to Compton Hospice, if they so wish." To donate to the fund, visit [www.justgiving.com/Sue-Oakley2](http://www.justgiving.com/Sue-Oakley2)

**HAGLEY Library is under threat of closure as county council bosses draw up plans to make £1.9 million of cuts over the next two years.**

Options being discussed include shutting the library and replacing it with a mobile service. Other options being considered are transferring the running costs to Hagley Parish Council with the aim of moving the library to a proposed 'community hub' in the village at a later date, or keeping it as it currently is.

### Savings

Worcestershire County Council's libraries and learning service needs to make the savings by 2015/18.

Hagley Parish Council chairman Steve Colella, who has described the library as 'essential' said he had been informed by the county council that the venue was at risk of closure as part of a review services.

The county's council's strategic libraries and learning manager, Kathy Kirk said it was looking at ways to maintain the library at a reduced cost and discussions had taken place with the parish council.

Mr Colella said: "Hagley Library Service is essential and is of great importance not only to the people of Hagley but also people from the surrounding areas."

"The outcome of a review of library services in Hagley is being prepared by Worcestershire County Council and will spell out the proposed recommendations to their cabinet."

"County overall budgets have to be cut by £30m with library service running costs requiring to be cut by half."

"I have been told that there is a risk that Hagley library will close and be replaced by a mobile library service, unless support can be found to bridge the service budget deficit."

"I do not want this to happen and the parish council will be looking at ways in which it can step in to support the continuation of the service in the existing building."

"However, any support the parish council gives must not leave it with future insurmountable debts and without problems landing in the lap of the parish council whilst the county council walks away."

Mrs Kirk said: "We are working closely with parish and district councils across Worcestershire to try to ensure library services remain at reduced costs."

"With regards to Hagley Library, we are in early discussions with potential interested parties and will engage with the local community as soon as any proposals emerge."

In 2012 the library celebrated its 50th anniversary.

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**JOURNAL****NEWS****Driving force for charity recruits**

Co-ordinator Margaret Bradley and volunteers Kath Layton, Nick Bachelour and Chris Barratt with communications officer Sharon Jenkins appeal for more Bridges Transport Solutions drivers to help out at SGS House

A CHARITY is looking for volunteer drivers to take patients to medical appointments in the Black Country.

The Tividale-based Bridges Support Service supports people living with cancer and palliative care needs. As part of its service it offers transport to appointments for patients and carers.

The organisation, which is part of the Murray Hall Community Trust, is now on the lookout for volunteer drivers to help meet demand for the service.

Debbie Robinson, senior care co-ordinator, said: "We are a charity based

in the Sandwell area and we work for Murray Hall Community Trust supporting people who have a cancer or palliative care diagnosis in Sandwell. We enable people to get to their hospital appointments which is why the transport solutions was set up.

"The client pays the mileage and our co-ordinator arranges the appointments and co-ordinates drivers to enable payments to access their appointments. Because more and more people are being diagnosed we need to increase our volunteer numbers."

The service currently has 16 volunteers and at any one time supports around 800 patients. Mrs Robinson

said: "In the past clients have turned down treatment because they don't know how they will get there if they haven't got family members at home, so they haven't always got people to take them to appointments. This gives people a reasonably priced other option."

Those interested in volunteering must hold a clean driving licence and will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check.

They should contact the office, which is based at SGS House in Johns Lane on 0121 612 2939 and ask for volunteer co-ordinator Margaret Bradley.

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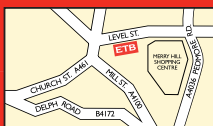
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## NEWS

# Tickets for Jon charity tribute gig are sold out

**ALL tickets for a tribute charity concert dedicated to the late Charlatans drummer Jon Brookes have been snapped up – just days after they went on sale.**

Local bands will be performing at Darlaston All Active on February 8. Britain's Got Talent finalist Connie Talbot is among the star acts set to take to the stage. Mr Brookes, who was from Burntwood, died last August at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham after battling a brain tumour.

The gig has been organised by Adam Paget, a life-long friend of Mr Brookes.

He said in the four days after they first went on sale all 480 tickets for the event had been sold.

Mr Paget said: "We could have sold double the number to be honest."

"I've been inundated with calls from people who want to buy tickets."

"We're thinking that if people just want to stay for one act, we can have their tickets and sell them on again."

"It means more people can come along and get in." The tickets cost £6 each, so already almost £3,000 has been raised for the Brain Tumour Charity.

Mr Paget said Connie Talbot fans were coming to the concert from as far away as Scotland.

Performers on the night

**by Simon Stone**

include the bands Marquis Drive once managed by Mr Brookes as well as Isolated Atoms, Junk Monkey, Little Liam, The Rimes, Idle and Spectrum.

A guitar signed by East-Enders' Danny Dyer and one signed by Welsh rockers Stereophonics will be auctioned to raise funds.

Cannock Orpheus Male Voice Choir will also be performing a Charlatans hit.

A fundraising raffle will be held with prizes including £500 worth of vouchers from Liam Gallagher's clothing range Pretty Green.

And Wolverhampton artist Paul Pilgrim will auction off paintings of Mr Brookes.

More than 200 mourners attended father-of-three Mr Brookes' funeral at Christ Church in Burntwood.

## Dream dance chance



**Olivia Hardiman, 13, from the Walsall Academy of Dance**

A TEENAGER'S elegant dance steps have landed her a place in a national awards event.

When Olivia Hardiman took her theatre craft Grade Five exam she was rewarded with a score of 91 per cent – and has now been invited to perform at the International Theatre Dance Awards in Manchester next month.

The 13-year-old who attends Walsall Academy of Dance, in Butts Road, said: "I was really pleased when I got my results, but I didn't think anything of it until my dance teacher told my mum I was going to Manchester for the awards."

Olivia is a pupil at Walsall Academy and previously attended Lodge Farm JMI School.

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# £10m scheme to replace overhead power cables

**OVERHEAD** electricity power lines stretching more than 14 miles across Sandwell are to be replaced as part of a £10 million project by National Grid.

The company says the work is essential and has vowed to keep disruption to the public at a minimum with only one

road closure announced so far. Some residents have already been given compensation ahead of the work.

The line being replaced starts from Oldbury, goes north to Ocker Hill and east to Bustleholme. A new 150 ft high pylon will also be built in Wednesbury.

Work begins next month to put up scaffolding and netting along 70 sections where houses, businesses and roads are

closed by. The project is expected to be completed by the end of August.

Project manager Chris Card said: "Most of this line runs through industrial and residential areas and so, in order to carry out the work safely, it will be necessary to close some roads temporarily. We will do our very best to keep any disruption to a minimum."

He added: "This work is part of our national maintenance programme and, when complete, will make sure we can continue to provide reliable electricity supplies across the region and the country as a whole."

One closure announced so far is Beacon View Road, West Bromwich, expected to remain shut for up to three months from mid-April.

## Dozens get £75 spot fines over dog mess

DOZENS of pet owners have been slapped with £75 on-the-spot fines for dog fouling in Sandwell in six months, figures have revealed.

Sandwell Council says it is adopting a zero-tolerance approach to dog owners allowing their pets to mess in public places.

The clampdown has seen wardens issue 73 fines in six months, while thousands of dog mess bags have been handed out and people have been educated on how to keep streets and open spaces clean.

The next step could see temporary stencils on pavements in hotspot areas for complaints, in a bid to warn people about the likely prospect of fines. The action is being taken by the council and its waste partner Serco.

Bosses are also encouraging residents to report others who do not scoop up dog dirt – including specific details like time, date, location, description of the dog and its owner – so mess can be cleaned up and those responsible tracked down.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "As a dog owner myself, I'm fed up with the small minority of people who don't clean up after their pets. It's something that really annoys responsible dog owners."



Gaurav Bains, with his mother Gurprit, sister Kiran and father Sunny

## Transplant op boy is allowed to visit home

HE was given the gift of life when he received a last-minute bone marrow transplant at Christmas. Now the relieved family of two-year-old Gaurav Bains say he is progressing well.

The youngster is currently recovering at Birmingham Children's Hospital following his life-saving operation on December 19. But he has managed to spend some time at his home in Tipton with his family.

His father Sunny Bains, of Alexandra Road, said: "Unexpectedly a few days ago, they said we were allowed to take him home for a few days.

### Happy

"The doctors said it was good for us to take him home to help cheer him up and help with his morale. He was really happy being in his home environment."

On Christmas Day, while most children were with their relatives, little Gaurav had to spend it behind a perspex screen separated from his family.

Doctors initially said he was only allowed to have one parent in with him at a time. They had to shower and change their clothes before going into his isolation room, and he could have no direct contact with four-year-old sister Kiran. But he has been doing so well that the rules have been relaxed and he has been able to cuddle his parents.

## Hopefuls flock to fair



MP James Morris opening the careers fair at West Bromwich Town Hall, attended by around 700 jobseekers

HUNDREDS of jobseekers flocked to a careers fair in the hope of bagging an apprenticeship or new position.

Some of the West Midlands' biggest employers were represented at the event in Sandwell, including Carillion, Jaguar Land Rover and Tesco.

Around 50 unemployed people queued outside West Bromwich Town Hall on Saturday waiting for the doors to open. And more than 700 job hunters attended the event over the course of the day.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris opened the event.

### Opportunities

He said: "I've spoken to the exhibitors and there's a good flow of people. Unemployment is falling generally, but events like this are important because we still need to do more to get young people into work."

"I think there are opportunities here for people across the age spectrum, but I think the most important focus is on young people, especially those who need to get better training and skills."

A total of 41 exhibitors ran stalls there, showcasing a range of jobs, apprenticeships, traineeships and courses. Many came away optimistic, although others felt they had less to smile about.

## Man has £320 court bill for smashing windows

A 29-year-old man may have used a hammer to smash a mother and daughter's house windows, a court heard.

Bryn Edwards, of Lunt Road, Bilton, admitted criminal damage in Thornberry Drive, Dudley, at the homes of Deborah and Emma Price. District Judge Michael Wheeler fined him a total of £130 and ordered him to pay £170 compensation – £85 for each window – and £20 victim surcharge at Dudley Magistrates Court.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said Edwards knew the two women and they suggested he had used a hammer to cause the damage.

He added that Edwards had been 'angry' and looking for Deborah Price's daughter Emma.

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## NEWS

# Winning team rally so practice runs smoothly



Vet Jo Day, front, with Frances Alink and back, from left, Jo Carrier, Bethany Lomas, Jody Shepherd, Penny Saunders, Kelly Heritage, Lucy Taylor and Vanessa Stokes at Vets4Pets

**AS she battled through gruelling cancer treatment, vet Jo Day could count upon her team to make sure her animal clients were well looked after.**

Now the staff at her Vets4Pets practice on the Dudley border with Tipton have won a national award for pulling together when the chips were down. They were rated top staff out of 230 practices nationwide.

Mrs Day, a 40-year-old mother from Kinver, who lives with her husband, Jon, and seven-year-old daughter Olivia in Edge View Walk, said: "The team has gone above and beyond the call of duty while I have been off fighting lymphoma. "I am truly grateful for all their hard work. It's amazing - they have all taken on an awful lot extra because I can't be there and they really deserve this award."

Mrs Day, a vet since 1996, opened her practice five years ago.

She fell ill in October 2012 and was diagnosed with the aggressive form of non Hodgkin's lymphoma last February. She underwent six months of chemotherapy and is now having radiotherapy. Her staff of two vets, three nurses and two receptionists, were announced as 'Team Player of the Year' at the Vets4Pets annual national congress recently.

## ADVERTISEMENT

We're all prone to make New Year resolutions - eating healthily, walking more and shedding a few pounds to name a few. Many of those intentions involve lifestyle decisions and seizing the opportunity for change. A recent Radio 4 broadcast explored the view of 'Your whole life is lived through your teeth'. The concept for many is true and none more so for the effervescent Ann Skitt of Willenhall, who made a New Year resolution to ditch her old, troublesome dentures and get a brand new smile. Is this the right time for you to do the same?

# New Year ...new smile

ANN Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

By her own confession it's an antique with a capacious, black leather-cloth saddlebag (no longer manufactured) and just three Sturmey-Archer gears. For nearly 20 years it's been a faithful companion and her primary source of transport. Her enthusiasm to get on the saddle belies her years. "I don't drive, but cycle everywhere I can," she says.

A young-at-heart 74-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

"I retired at 60, but I always have to be doing something. The club has some elderly people who never really see anyone from week to week and I love helping. We do lunches and have a game of bingo and a laugh," she adds.

She admits to constantly making choices to live life to the limit and indulging herself as popular hairdressers'

model at Wolverhampton's award-winning Ultimate Hairdressing salon whenever she fancies a new look. "I love meeting the students and they treat me lovely," she says.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker, who completed 45 years' service at Willenhall's famous Josiah Parkes & Sons lock manufacturers, could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment," she recalls.

### Plucked up the courage

"My remaining bottom teeth were terribly discoloured and my partial lower denture was unstable. You could never eat anything like nuts and I was always so conscious of the way they looked. If I cooked lamb chops or a steak I'd struggle to eat it - it would take me ages, but I can eat anything now," she says with a smile.

Ann called time on her long-standing dental problems after reading an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353 and his work as principal at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

"I had a couple of articles and kept them for nearly a year before I plucked up the courage to see Steve.

I knew exactly what I wanted and was happy to put up with a bit of discomfort to get there," she says.

With four implants in her upper and four in the lower jaw to secure implant-retained over-dentures, Ann now has a perfect smile and functional teeth.

"I love my teeth and they have given me so much more confidence. You don't realise how having bad teeth affect until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed."

"I told Steve I didn't want teeth like Cilla Black or Stacey Solomon, they would not look good on someone my age," she adds.

Husband Brian is full of praise - "It's taken years off her and the teeth are just perfect for her."

Her teeth were hand-crafted on the premises at the Denture Clinic and implant surgery was carried out by Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry), principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

A long-standing working relationship between Jon and Steve has fused two dental disciplines which continues to enjoy excellent clinical outcomes.

"Both Steve and Jon were lovely with me. I've told all my friends they need to see them too," says Ann.

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# JLR offer help for young recruits



An aerial view of the JLR factory under construction near Wolverhampton

**YOUNG** people hoping to get one of 140 apprenticeship positions up for grabs at Jaguar Land Rover are being urged to attend an event helping them with their applications today.

It is being held at the Windsor Business Centre at Trinity Point off Halesowen High Street on January 23.

Organiser Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said it would provide information on how to strengthen applications.

Apprentice manager at JLR, Ian Eva, will also be on hand to discuss the schemes on offer.

## Building

The company aims to recruit 140 new apprentices in September at its sites in West Midlands, which include a plant in Castle Bromwich and its new base at 154 business park near Wolverhampton.

The first phase of recruitment follows completion of the main building at the £500 million Engine Manufacturing Centre, where plant and production machinery are now being installed.

Apprenticeships in design, engineering and finance are on offer.

Mr Morris said: "Jaguar Land Rover is one of the best-known, and most successful, engineering companies in the country."

The deadline for applications for both JLR schemes is Friday, January 31, and more details can be found at the [www.jaguarlandrovercareers.com](http://www.jaguarlandrovercareers.com) website.



Halesowen MP James Morris



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**LIVE LOCAL - ROWLEY REGIS & BLACKHEATH**

# When going gets tough Tom and Matt get going



Tough Guys in training - Tom Davies and Matt Johnson take on the assault course in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust

FOR some, a 40th birthday could be the trigger to buy a soft-top sports car, start wearing skinny jeans or snap up a ticket for Glastonbury.

But for father-of-one Matt Johnson, of Churchfield Drive, Rowley Regis, it was the inspiration for running through burning bales of hay, freezing cold water up to his neck and crawling under barbed wire on extreme assault courses.

Mr Johnson, father to nine-year-old Harry, is taking on the Tough Guy challenge with fellow Sandwell Council worker Tom Davies on Sunday.

It is widely seen as the toughest assault course in the world and the 40-year-old is hoping to raise £500 from the event towards the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Matt's wife Karen died from the disease a month after giving birth to their only son at the age of 32.

Matt said: "It's great when we get

notified of new donations as it means we'll run that little bit faster."

Mr Johnson will take on the challenge with colleague Mr Davies, 41, who lives in Kingswinford with his wife and two children, Jake and Eleanor.

The Tough Guy challenge takes place near Perton on January 26. Anyone who wants to sponsor Mr Johnson should visit <http://www.just-giving.com/maf40> or for more information about the challenge visit <http://www.toughguy.co.uk/>

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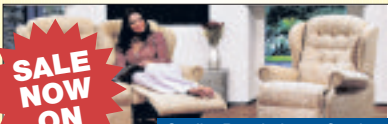
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Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2007 and is now working closely with his father in the day to day running of the business and conducting of the funerals in the long established family business still located in Lower High Street. In late 2008 Trevor and Ross took over the running of R. Hadley Funeral Services in Halesowen. Carrying on the established business to the same standard and code of practice that of T. E. W. Hickton & T Hadley & Co. Trevor's other son Greg joined the business in 2010.

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## LIVE LOCAL - CRADLEY HEATH

# Structure in place as fire station shapes up



An artist's impression of Cradley Heath's new fire station which is due to open in May, as a base for 44 firefighters

**A NEW £4 million fire station is beginning to take shape after the erection of a huge two-storey metal frame.**

The station, on the junction of Halesowen Road and Barrs Road in Cradley Heath, is quickly going up ahead of its expected opening in May.

The split-level building on a 1.1 acre site next to Haden Hill Leisure Centre will be the base to 44 firefighters as well as being available to a West Midlands Ambulance Service crew and vehicle.

### Steel

Rob Ash, surveyor for West Midlands Fire Service, said: "People who live near or pass the site will have seen the new station literally taking shape in the last few weeks.

"Most of the steel frame is now complete, and the first floor slabs are being fitted.

"Masonry work is also under way, and this month we will see a start being made on walls, cladding and roofing."

The station will have three vehicle bays, with a new brigade response vehicle expected to be housed there from 2015.



Starting to take shape, steel structure of the fire station

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Our research has already helped to transform lives. But there are still so many people who need our help.

### HELP US RAMP UP OUR RESEARCH

By organising a Ramp up the Red event on Friday 7 February and raising money, you'll help us fight a vision for a better future. Our vision is a world where people don't die prematurely from heart disease. Over the past months we have been reviewing our strategic approach with the help of staff, supporters and stakeholders. Our new strategy will give us powerful focus in our fight for every heartbeat, and enable us to lead the fight against cardiovascular disease more effectively. We'll continue the fight through our pioneering heart research, vital prevention and survival activity and ensuring quality care and support for everyone living with heart disease. 50 years fighting heart disease We were founded in 1961 by a group of medical professionals wanting to fund extra research into the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of heart and circulatory disease. After half a century of extraordinary scientific and societal progress, we have helped to transform the landscape of heart disease. Explore 50 years of the fight against heart disease.

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## NEWS

# Homes to replace office

THE site of an office formerly used by council tenants to pay their rent and bills could be turned into homes.

Outline plans have been submitted by Warwick Homes about access to the former Springfield and Brickhouse neighbourhood office in Rowley Regis. It had previously been used by Sandwell Homes for its tenants to pay bills.

The Dudley Road office would be demolished first to pave the way for new homes, the proposals state.

Developers say a more detailed application will be made later. It comes after the approval of plans for a new garden and play area at another old Sandwell Homes neighbourhood office, which is now used as a community centre.

The former neighbourhood office in Greet Green, West Bromwich, is in line for a refit. The Harwood Street building has been taken on by the Confederation of Bangladeshi Organisations since being closed under a £6.6 million savings drive.

# Credit union launches on the internet

A COUNCIL-BACKED credit union serving Dudley borough has launched a new online service.

Castle & Crystal Credit Union is offering people the chance to complete membership and loan applications without having to visit the head office in New Street, Dudley.

After registration, members will be able to view online account balances, deposit into savings accounts using their debit cards, and withdraw directly by transferring cash to their bank accounts.

In addition, ethical affordable loans will be accessible to customers, and decisions will be made much more quickly through the new online service.

### Community

Councillor Pete Lowe, Dudley Council's cabinet member for finance, said: "Castle & Crystal is a true community bank offering a fair and friendly service to people in the borough."

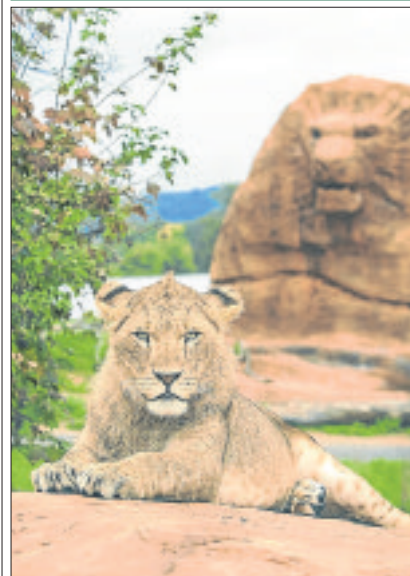
"The loans service, which is now available online as well as in the branch, makes sure that members only take on manageable debt – unlike high street payday loan companies who are just out to make a profit."

He added: "Anyone who lives or works in the borough can join knowing full well that the money circulating via Castle & Crystal is staying within the community and helping support local people and businesses."

Established in September 1983, Castle & Crystal Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial co-operative.

For more information about the credit union and its services, call 01384 815771.

## Pride of the safari park



Charlie the lion is short of attention as weekend visitors are few and far between at West Midland Safari Park

WE'VE all been there – the post Christmas lull and chilly weather means it can be tough to get going in the new year. And now it seems the January blues are kicking in for one of the animals at the West Midland Safari Park.

Charlie, a young male lion at the Bewdley-based attraction has found that after a hectic December with lots of visitors popping in to see Santa Claus, January is providing a decidedly quieter affair.

While dozens of people poured through the doors last month he took pride of place on a sandstone mound where everyone passing could admire him.

And despite the site currently being shut between Mondays and Fridays, Charlie is still heading out to pose but is a disappointed that no-one is there to see him. Bosses say he is in his element again once the weekend arrives.

West Midland Safari Park fully reopens on February 15 when it will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

## Project award

A PROJECT to bring together people from different communities on neighbouring estates has won an award.

Dudley Council's participation development team scooped a trophy for its work on the Five Estates Plus Project in Netherton.

# Panel of judges looking for performers with wow factor

PERFORMERS can win cash and the chance to work with a talent agency by competing in a show starting next month.

The Laurels Club, in Colley Gate, Cradley, is hosting the event to find some of the best artists in the region.

The show, which has been named the Wow Factor, is open to any 'up and coming' or established artists in the area.

It will start on Sunday, February 9, running in the afternoons from 3pm to 6pm

for 10 weeks. A panel of judges will be casting their professional eye over the performances to select their champion.

The winner will receive a cash prize, recording studio time and the chance to work for the Waterfords Entertainment Agency.

It is free entry for the competition with application forms available behind the bar of the club on Windmill Hill, or by calling 0121 602 1812.



## NEWS

## Baggies mind their business with school links to overseas markets



With some of the young business brains is Sam Buckle from West Bromwich FC. The pupils at Tipton's Ace Academy are, from left, Taylor Morris, Helena Bissell, Jesse Payne, Chloe Venables, Zohaib Hussain and Charlotte Price

WEST Bromwich Albion have been looking into how to tap into the American and African markets – thanks to a group of school children.

Thousands of budding business brains from across the country have been getting involved in the Premier League's Enterprise Challenge, solving real-life business problems faced by clubs in a challenge set by league chief executive Richard Scudamore.

Yesterday 160 pupils at Tipton's Ace Academy pitched their ideas to representatives from West Bromwich

by Adam Grinsell

Albion – the team's community liaison Sam Buckle – and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Divided into teams of eight, the pupils this year had to solve the problem of how to tap into foreign markets, specifically America and Africa.

They came up with ideas as diverse as creating an app, having players hold training camps, and taking foreign visitors on a cultural tour of the area to places such as The Black Country Museum. The school's assistant head teacher Julie Cornfield said: "The idea

really is how Premier League clubs can work within their communities.

"We had 160 students taking part from years nine to 13, in teams, and yesterday we chose one team to go through to the semi-final and take on teams representing other clubs."

The winning team will be hoping to replicate the success of their predecessors, as last year the school's entry finished as runner-up.

They reached the final, which took place at the Houses of Parliament. That challenge saw pupils trying to work out how clubs could get more young people involved.

## star★extraTRAVEL

### Victoria Falls Botswana Safari and Cape Town

Beginning in Zambia, staying close to the spectacular Victoria Falls, the largest single body of falling water in the world, a sunset cruise along the mighty Zambezi on the African Queen will be the first spectacular experience. As the boat glides across this expanse of a river inhabited by hippo and crocodiles, simply relax in a wicker armchair and absorb the unique surroundings.

At Victoria Falls, a guided walking tour is included with other options to view the spectacular falls from either a cruise, a helicopter flight or from a micro-light aircraft.

On the Botswana Safari travel in a specially adapted 10-seater open-sided safari vehicle and see a wide variety of game including monkeys, warthogs and even leopards plus the chance to see cats, giraffe and elephants – it's an experience not to be forgotten so remember to pack a camera!

A second cruise, this time along the Chobe River, almost guarantees sightings of elephant and hippo, then a visit to Cape Point passes the fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Continuing on, see the breathtakingly scenic Chapman's Peak Drive, full of rugged seascapes and cliffs to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

At Cape Point itself see the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean then it's on to Boulders Beach to see the resident penguin colony.

On the Winelands tour, a visit to the small town of Franschoek is included home to South Africa's most prestigious university and where period buildings and historic streets reinforce the town's dignified atmosphere. A cellar tour and tasting at the award-winning Boschendal Wine Estate is included.

The touring holiday ends in Cape Town. Take time to explore the excellent shopping and dining available, take the cable car to the summit of Table Mountain and, weather permitting, visit Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent most of his 27 years incarceration.

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##### Estimated Timings

Joining Stations	Depart	Return	Fares (all points)	Adult	Junior
Codsall	07:55	20:50	Standard Class	£79.00	£39.00
Wolverhampton	08:05	20:40	First Class Plus	£125.00	£95.00
Birmingham N. St.	08:30	20:10	Premier Dining	£199.00	£169.00



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##### Estimated Timings

Joining Stations	Depart	Return	Fares (all points)	Adult	Junior
East Midlands Parkway	0645	2115	Standard Class	£79.00	£39.00
Birmingham New St.	0830	1930	First Class Plus	£125.00	£95.00
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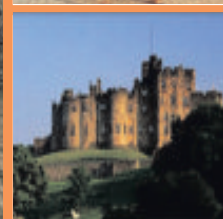
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 Option C - Hadrian's Wall    Option D - Alnwick (approx. 12:30 to 16:30)  
 Option E - Lindisfarne: The Holy Island

(\*SUPPLEMENTARY FARES)

##### Estimated Timings

Joining Stations	Depart	Return	Fares (all points)	Adult	Junior
Codsall	0600	2320	Standard Class	£79.00	£39.00
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# What's On!

## All eyes were on dynamic violinist

Joshua Bell with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EVEN the most glorious of concerts can have you launched into a reverie. After the initial excitement of applauding the conductor and occasional glance at the ranks, it is not uncommon to look skywards and dream. Not so on Saturday with a concert that was all action from start to finish.

The drama began with the announcement that Beethoven's Eroica symphony would be changing places with Brahms' Concerto in D major. Nothing like a change in the programme to instigate a few raised eyebrows.

Then came Bell in his dual role as violin soloist and conductor for the opening Chaconne by Bach. Backed by just the strings it made a gentle start to the night with all eyes on Joshua asserting himself from behind his bow. He was suitably serene.

His stance was a warm-up for the dynamic Brahms which saw an extremely physical Bell conducting almost by dueling with the musicians, using his whole body. By the time the orchestra got to the Beethoven the audience was braced for the sheer energy and joy of this popular piece. We were not disappointed as three encores testified. It would have been four if Bell had not concluded with a cheeky look at his watch before exiting stage right.

SARAH COWEN-STRONG

# Plenty to laugh about as top comedians lift winter blues

## Brides found for brothers in yee-haw show

A RIP-ROARING musical set on America's frontier has been revived in a spectacular new production of Seven Brides For Seven Brothers, which is being staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from February 3 to 8.

It may not be the most promising subject for a musical, seven backwoods brothers who are inspired by the ancient Romans' seizure of the Sabine women to kidnap their own brides, but it has produced several toe-tapping tunes including Bless Your Beautiful Hide.

### Choreographer

And the lovelorn beefcakes find their potential wives are more than a match for them, teaching them manners and how to dance.

Award-winning American choreographer and director Patti Colombo has assembled a cast including former EastEnders and Dancing On Ice star Sam Attwater as the elder Pontipee brother and Helena Blackman as the runner-up in Andrew Lloyd-Webber's TV search for The Sound Of Music revival star in How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?



Sam Attwater as Adam Pontipee with Helena Blackman as Milly

## COMEDY stars are coming to the Black Country and Birmingham.

Jack Whitehall has a warm up gig for his arena tour at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on February 12. He will be back in the West Midlands at Birmingham NIA on March 14.

The Black Country's Frank Skinner is returning to his stand-up roots with his Man In A Suit tour coming to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on April 16 and 17, then at Birmingham Symphony Hall from April 22 to 24. Mancunian Jason Manford is at the Civic Hall tomorrow night and the venue features Ed Byrne tackling his midlife crisis on February 22.

The Slade Rooms host Gary Delaney (Feb 20), Richard Herring (Feb 28), sulky Liam Williams (Mar 4), Paul Sinha from The Chase (Mar 6), MTV's Joel Dommett (Mar 7), the WitTank gang (Mar 9), Tough Luvvie Hal Crutten (Mar 10) and Simon Evans (Apr 17). The Wulfrun has Festival of the Spoken Word (Jan 31), Jimoein (Feb 11) and Miles Kane (Mar 14).

Playing a smaller venue than usual is the hyperactive Lee Evans, who has sold out all his dates in February and March at Birmingham Glee Club. The Arcadian Centre venue also hosts The Real McCoy crew on February 2, Paul Chowdhry has added a



**Warm-up - Jack Whitehall** date on February 25 (also at the Wulfrun on May 1), Richard Herring is Glee-bound March 9 and grumpy American Rich Hall on March 12.

Other Brummie highlights include: activist Mark Thomas at the MAC, Edgbaston, on January 31 and February 1; Miles Jupp, MAC (Feb 19); Punt and Dennis, Birmingham Town Hall (Feb 26); International Women's Day with Bridget Christie, Lucy Porter, Shazia Mirza, Grace Petrie and Fred McAulay, Town Hall (Mar 8), Sarah Millican, Symphony Hall (Mar 21-23).

## Strictly fabulous victory for Natalie

Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour, NIA

REIGNING Strictly Come Dancing champion Abbey Clancy may have scored top marks with the judges but it was Natalie Gumede who waltzed away with the glitter ball on the first night of the tour at Birmingham's NIA.

The judges put Abbey in what seemed like an unbeatable position with a perfect 60 out of 60 but Natalie, one point behind, obviously impressed the voting audience with her fine footwork, either that or it was the chest of her partner Artem.

Hosted by former contestant Lisa Riley, the show was sheer entertainment with the professional dancers' impressive displays and, of course, the banter with the three judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli and the critical Craig Revel Horwood, who did let his face crack once - purely a mistake darling! It was all a bit pantyish but went down well with the audience.

Susanna Reid proved popular and the lovely Mark Benton thrilled everyone but the judges and ended up bottom of the leaderboard, above the very enthusiastic dragon Deborah Meaden. Rugby hunk, Ben Cohen, impressed with his muscles as much as his dancing and making a popular comeback was Nicky Byrne, the 2012 contestant was not rusty with his excellent Charleston.

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## What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 25.01.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Emma Willis

## The Voice UK

BBC1, 7pm

There was a danger The Voice was growing stale as Will.i.am and Tom Jones dropped more names than a Brit awards announcer. Thankfully a necessary shot in the arm came in the form of pop princess Kylie Minogue, while Kaiser Chief Ricky Wilson has proved a welcome addition too. It didn't hurt that Emma Willis and Marvin Humes joined as hosts either. Each judge selected at least one singer from episode one, but a couple of questions dominate this show: who will leave Kylie and her fellow judges spinning around this week, and who will get the cold shoulder?

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Good Cook. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **1.15** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. A Winter Olympics special. **1.45** Live Athletics: UK Indoor Match. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Dynamo: Magician Impossible.

**6.00** Reflex. Families from Eastbourne and Yorkshire battle each other in a series of physical and mental challenges. Hosted by Shane Richie. **6.45** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

**7.00** The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes host the third round of blind auditions, with coaches Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson aiming to bolster their teams further.

**8.15** The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers compete by listing as much as they know about given subjects. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

**9.10** Casualty. Dixie confronts a suspected rapist during a night out – only to be accused of assault herself when he falls and hits his head. Ethan and Cal help a little boy gets his voice back.

**10.00** Mrs Brown's Boys. (R) **10.30** BBC News: Weather: National Lottery Update.

**10.50** Film: Air Force One. (1997) Action thriller, starring Harrison Ford.

**12.45** Film: The Two Mr Kissels. (2008) **2.10** Weatherview. **2.15** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **6.45** Film: The Spanish Main. (1945) **8.25** Live Tennis: Australian Open Women's Final. **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.45** The Big Bread Experiment. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Live International Bowls. **4.30** Coast. (R) **5.00** Wild Arabia. (R)

**6.00** Wild Arabia. Exploring the mountains of Dhoofar in Oman, where the annual Indian Ocean monsoon has helped create a lost world of waterfalls and cloud forests filled with fascinating wildlife. (R)

**7.00** Flog It! Experts Philip Serrell and Charlie Ross examine heirlooms in Tavistock, Devon, while presenter Paul Martin has a look around Endsleigh Gardens. (R)

**8.00** Dad's Army. Frazer is asked to look after the platoon's Lewis gun, but finds himself in hot water when he misplaces the spring – and fears it is has been left inside a coffin. (R)

**8.30** Morecambe & Wise in Pieces: At Home. Penelope Keith presents a look through the archives at the parts of the comedy duo's shows in which they appeared in sketches set in domestic situations.

**9.30** QI XL. An extended edition of the quiz, as Stephen Fry asks Victoria Coren Mitchell, Bill Bailey, Jimmy Carr and Alan Davies questions on the topic of jargon.

**10.15** Film: West Is West. (2010) Comedy sequel, starring Om Puri.

**11.55** International Bowls. **12.55** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Catchphrase. (R) **12.15** Live FA Cup Football. **3.00** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.40** You've Been Framed! (R) **4.10** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010)

**6.20** Regional Programme: Weather.

**6.30** ITV News: Weather.

**6.45** Splash! Jenny Eclair, Austin Healey, Pollyanna Woodward, Una Foden and Richard Whitehead compete for two places in next week's semi-final with help from coach Tom Daley.

**8.15** Take Me Out. A Cornwall surfer, a festival lover from Watford, a Bedford carpenter and a Take That tribute star from Manchester try to impress a panel of women. Paddy McGuinness presents.

**9.30** The Jonathan Ross Show. The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, music performances by A-list bands and solo artists.

**10.30** ITV News: Weather.

**10.45** FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from the completed fourth-round matches, including Southend United v Hull City, Bolton Wanderers v Cardiff City and Sunderland v Kidderminster Harriers.

**12.00** The Cube. (R) **12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The American Football Show: The Road to the Super Bowl. (R) **7.05** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** How I Met Your Mother. **11.30** How I Met Your Mother. **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Taste. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.30** Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.00** Come Dine with Me. Chintu Gademsetty hosts the final dinner party in east London. (R)

**6.30** Channel 4 News.

**7.00** Speed with Guy Martin. The racing fan embarks on a mission to fly using muscle power alone, teaming up with engineers from Southampton University to build the fastest man-powered aircraft in the world. (R)

**8.00** Bigfoot Files. Geneticist Bryan Sykes and presenter Mark Evans embark on a global quest to solve the riddle of mysterious creatures such as the sasquatch. (R)

**9.00** Hostages. President Kincaid decides to switch doctors.

**10.00** Film: Underworld: Rise of the Lycans. (2009) Premiere. Fantasy horror prequel, starring Michael Sheen.

**11.45** Film: 30 Days of Night. (2007) Horror, starring Josh Hartnett.

**1.50** Southland. (R) **2.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.50** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.50** World's Worst Holiday Horrors. (R) **11.50** Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **1.15** Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) **3.00** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **4.00** Film: Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind. (1975) **5.35** Film: Columbo: A Matter of Honour. (1976)

**6.50** NCIS. Tony tries to piece together the chain of events that led to him being shot. (R)

**7.40** NCIS. The team joins forces with military investigators to ascertain whether terrorists were responsible for an explosion at a golf course in which a marine colonel was killed. (R)

**8.30** NCIS. A former marine falls to his death from a hotel balcony, and investigations lead the team to the discovery of another body – along with a vice ring trafficking young girls. (R)

**9.20** 5 News Weekend.

**9.30** Celebrity Big Brother. With the reality series extended for an extra five days, further highlights of yesterday's goings-on, including reaction to another eviction ahead of Wednesday's final.

**10.30** Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour.

**11.45** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R)

**12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Road Terror: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth **7.15** Top Gear **8.15** Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (2008) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy

**BBC Four** **7.00** Wild China **8.00** Pain, Pus & Poison: The Search for Modern Medicines **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Forever Young – How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up

**ITV2** **2.30** Film: Honey (2003) **4.25** You've Been Framed! **5.25** You've Been Framed and Famous! **6.30** Film: The Perfect Storm (2000) **9.00** Film: Die Another Day (2002) **11.45** The Maguluf Weekender

**ITV3** **3.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.55** Inspector Morse **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** A Touch of Frost

**ITV4** **3.20** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **5.35** Film: Rooster Cogburn (1975) **7.50** Hornblower. First episode of the seafaring drama. **10.00** Film: Collateral Damage (2002) **E4**

**4.00** How I Met Your Mother **5.30** The Big Bang Theory: Access All Areas **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Terminator Salvation (2009) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** Rude Tube 2012

**Film4** **3.10** I Wanna Hold Your Hand (1978) **5.05** Flash Gordon (1980) **7.15** John Tucker Must Die (2006) **9.00** Braveheart (1995) Oscar-winning historical epic, directed by and starring Mel Gibson.

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- Visits to the major sights of Vietnam and Cambodia
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- Cruise aboard a converted Chinese junk visiting caves and grottoes at Halong Bay.
- Visit the Cu Chi tunnels in Saigon
- Full-day cruise along the mighty Mekong River delta
- Visit the ancient city and temples of Angkor, Cambodia
- Guided tour of Phnom Penh
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

\* varies according to departure dates please go to website for the latest availability and prices



# What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

## SUNDAY'S TV 26.01.14

### CHOICE



Evan Davis

#### Dragons' Den BBC2, 9pm

Savvy businessmen and women have managed to get their products out to the masses regardless of the entrepreneurs' interest. Hungry House, a takeaway website, has done rather well. But who out of this week's wannabe tycoons will manage to secure funds? Among those pitching are graduates from Manchester offering a stake in their youth-orientated package holiday business; the Bulgarian inventor of a self-filling bath; and a 20-year-old from Essex hoping to impress the Dragons with a cure for water-damaged mobile phones.

### BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Moving On. (R) **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.45** Helicopter Heroes. **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Hidden Kingdoms. (R) **5.35** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **6.00** Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate the authenticity of two paintings – one in London, one from Detroit – that might be by one of Britain's best-loved artists, John Constable. **7.00** Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and John Craven visit the Gwaun Valley and Preseli Hills in north Pembrokeshire, uncovering Iron Age treasures and giving an ancient forest a new lease of life. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** Call the Midwife. Jenny helps a mum-to-be whose baby was not fathered by her husband – and to complicate matters, the real father is black. Cynthia is inspired by a lecture on natural childbirth. **9.00** The Musketeers. D'Artagnan tries to prove he is worthy of joining the Musketeers, while they try to outwit a criminal who is threatening the king from his prison cell. Jason Flemingy guest stars. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **10.25** Film: Meet the Fockers. (2004) Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro. **12.15** Weatherview. **12.20** BBC News.

### BBC2

**6.00** Film: Hue and Cry. (1947) **7.20** Countryfile Winter Special. (R) **8.15** Live Tennis: Australian Open Men's Final. Sue Barker presents coverage of the men's singles final at Melbourne Park. **12.00** Saturday Kitchen: Best Bites. (R) **1.30** The Big Bread Experiment. (R) **2.30** Live International Bowls. The World Indoor Championships. **5.15** Ski Sunday. **6.00** Wild Arabia. The changes that have swept across the Arabian peninsula since the discovery of oil, and how technology is being used to protect nature in a modern society. Last in the series. (R) **7.00** Flog It! Charlie Ross and Philip Sarrell help contestants sell antiques at auction in Tenby, Pembrokeshire. Paul Martin presents. (R) **8.00** The Coffee Trail with Simon Reeve. The adventurer examines the coffee industry in Vietnam, meeting some of the millions of people involved in picking, packing and transporting it to the UK. **9.00** Dragons' Den. The business ideas contest returns after a mid-series break. A 20-year-old entrepreneur from Essex pitches an ingenious cure for water-damaged mobile phones. **10.00** Film: Blood Diamond. (2006) A smuggler helps a fisherman find his missing son in war-torn Sierra Leone, in return for a rare pink diamond. Action thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Djimon Hounsou. **12.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile Winter Special. (R) **1.10** Holby City. (R) **2.10** This Is BBC Two.

### ITV

**6.00** CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled. **9.25** TV News. **9.30** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **10.00** Inside the National Trust. **11.00** ITV News: Weather. **11.15** Splash! (R) **12.45** Film: From Russia with Love. (1963) **3.00** Live FA Cup Football. **5.50** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.00** ITV News: Weather. **6.15** Dancing on Ice. The nine remaining celebrities continue their quest to be named the ultimate Dancing on Ice champion, and Torvill and Dean perform a routine in collaboration with Rebecca Ferguson. The results are at 8.30pm. **7.45** All Star Family Fortunes. Brian McFadden and Diane Parish take part. **8.30** Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. Another star skater is eliminated. **9.00** Mr Selfridge. A protest stirs up emotions among the staff, with some asking whether Harry will leave if war breaks out, while Lord Loxley thwarts Lady Mae's plans to escape to the country. **10.00** ITV News at Ten: Weather. **10.15** Birds of a Feather. The girls become involved with three very different men. (R) **10.45** FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from today's fourth-round matches. **11.45** Angle-Weish Cup Rugby Union. **12.45** The Week. **2.45** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **4.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

### CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Snowdonia Marathon. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** How I Met Your Mother. **1.55** How I Met Your Mother. **2.20** The Simpsons. (R) **2.50** The Simpsons. (R) **3.20** Deal or No Deal. **4.25** Channel 4 News. **4.55** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **6.00** Film: Mirror Mirror. (2012) Premiere. An exiled princess joins forces with a band of dwarfs to wrest back her father's kingdom from her stepmother. Fantasy, with Julia Roberts. **8.00** The Jump. New series. Celebrities battle it out in a series of challenging winter sport disciplines and two of them face a live ski jump each night to keep their place in the competition. Continues tomorrow. **9.00** Film: Unstoppable. (2010) Two train operators must stop a runaway locomotive carrying toxic chemicals before it causes a major disaster. Action thriller, with Denzel Washington. **10.50** Film: G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra. (2009) Two soldiers join a top-secret military strike force to battle terrorists who have stolen a deadly experimental weapon. Action adventure, with Channing Tatum. **1.05** Mesh: Tourist Trap. (R) **1.10** Night Walking. (R) **1.15** Film: Day Watch. (2006) **3.25** Southland. (R) **4.10** Enough. (R) **4.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **5.10** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.30** Deal or No Deal. (R)

### CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.45** The Town the Travellers Took Over. (R) **11.40** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.40** Terror in the Skies: Scariest Nights. (R) **1.40** Road Terror: Caught on Camera. (R) **2.40** Film: Bewitched. (2005) **4.40** Film: Fairytale: A True Story. (1997) **6.35** Film: Outbreak. (1995) An expert in infectious diseases searches for the cure for a lethal airborne virus threatening to turn into a pandemic. Thriller, with Dustin Hoffman. **8.50** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. Another housemate is given the boot. **10.00** Film: Harry Brown. (2009) Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine. **11.55** Autopsy: Anna Nicole Smith's Last Hours. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** My Post-Baby Breakdown: Jennifer Ellison. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jazz. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jazz. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

### DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.45** The Voice UK **9.00** Sun. Sex and Suspicious Parents: Thailand **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Uncle **11.15** American Dad! **BBC Four** **7.00** Hidden Histories: Britain's Oldest Family Businesses **8.00** The Review Show **9.00** Storyville: The Big Melt – How Steel Made Us Hard **10.10** Film: We Are What We Are (2010) **11.35** Horror Europa with Mark Gatiss **ITV2** **2.40** Film: Miss Congeniality (2000) **4.00** Film: Peter Pan (2003) **7.00** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **9.00** The Magulaf Weekend **10.00** Film: The Bourne Supremacy (2004) **ITV3** **2.40** Film: Columbo: Troubled Waters (1975) **4.40** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Film: Intolerable Cruelty (2003) **11.05** Cracker **ITV4** **2.00** Film: Aces High (1976) **4.15** Film: Dunkirk (1958) **7.00** Storage Wars **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Hard Target (1993) **11.00** Hell on Wheels **11.55** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **E4** **4.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Furry Vengeance (2010) **9.50** Rude Tube **2012** **10.50** 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut **11.40** The Big Bang Theory **Film4** **3.00** The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958) **4.45** Dr Doolittle (1998) **6.25** The Way Back (2010) **9.00** Kick-Ass (2010) **11.20** The Black Dahlia (2006)

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### MONDAY

##### Carolina Moon, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman returns to her home town, where she discovers that the killer of her childhood friend is still terrorising the community, and embarks on a mission to track him down before he claims another life. However, while trying to capture the murderer, romance unexpectedly blossoms between her and the handsome older brother of her deceased friend. Romantic mystery, starring Claire Forlani and Oliver Hudson. (2007)

#### TUESDAY

##### Little Voice, BBC1, 11.35pm

A painfully shy woman has a talent for impersonating famous performers including Shirley Bassey, Marilyn Monroe and Judy Garland. She is spotted by a greedy promoter who instinctively realises her considerable money-spinning potential, but the shrinking violet proves reluctant to step into the limelight. Comedy drama, with Jane Horrocks and Michael Caine. (1998)

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Fatal Trust, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A widow returns to the small town where she grew up to recover from her grief at the loss of her husband, and gets a job as a secretary to the local doctor. She becomes suspicious about the surprising number of patients who die after treatment, and becomes convinced the seemingly kind medic is poisoning them. Crime drama, starring Amy Jo Johnson. (2006)



The Siege, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

#### THURSDAY

##### A Trick of the Mind, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A woman discovers a private eye is spying on her husband. When she confronts the detective, he claims her spouse is holding secrets back and that her life is in danger if she remains with him. She faces a dilemma over who to believe and how to uncover the truth without revealing her suspicions. Thriller, starring Alexandra Holden and Stacy Grant. (2006)

#### FRIDAY

##### The Siege, Channel 5, 10pm

New York is placed under martial law after a series of bombings and hijackings involving hundreds of casualties causes widespread panic, prompting a desperate bid by the FBI to find the terrorist cell responsible before full-scale civil unrest takes hold of the city. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington. (1998)

##### Saw IV, Channel 4, 11.20pm

Sadistic killer Jigsaw is dead, but FBI agents discover he has an accomplice who is continuing his fiendish games. Horror sequel, starring Costas Mandylor, Athena Karkanis, Scott Patterson, Tobin Bell and Betsy Russell. (2007)

### Pick of the Week

## Ice cool celebrities face a wintery challenge

Is there really space in our schedules for yet another celebrities-under-the-microscope series?

Dancing on Ice's final series is still on air, and we've only just said farewell to the latest run of Celebrity Big Brother. We've even had a brief run of a celeb-themed Great British Bake Off recently.

But Channel 4 clearly think we need to see more famous faces out of their comfort zone – and the dozen handpicked for this new sporting reality show, hosted by Davina McCall and Alex Brooker, will definitely be that.

With the start of Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, just a couple of weeks away, the broadcaster will be trying to get us in the mood for more snow and ice-based action by revealing how 12 familiar folk get on as they undergo rigorous instruction in seven winter sports – skeleton, bobsleigh, speed skating, speed skiing, skier cross, slalom and ski jump – before competing against each other.

Liam Humphreys, Channel 4's head of factual entertainment, says of the show: "This promises to be a hugely

entertaining and ambitious event and we can't wait to take both our contestants and the audience on a white knuckle, vertigo-inducing ride."

Those taking part are former rower Steve Redgrave, ex-cricketer Darren Gough, comedian Marcus Brigstocke, hairdresser Nicky Clarke, party promoter Henry Conway, Sive's Ritchie Neville, ex-Pussycat Doll Kimberly Wyatt, Essex girl Amy Childs, singer Sinitta, and TV presenters Anthea Turner, Melinda Messenger and Laura Hamilton.

They've been taken to a European destination for filming, where Winter Olympians Graham Bell and Amy Williams have been putting them through their paces. We'll get to see how they're getting on via on-piste reports and slow-motion footage of them in action.

We may also get to see two other stars on the slopes. The original line-up included socialist Tara Palmer-Tomkinson and Flash Gordon actor Sam Jones. They were replaced by Hamilton and Neville respectively; Palmer-Tomkinson withdrew after deciding the contest wasn't for her, while Jones was forced to quit by

injury, which is a shame – those of us who grew up in the 1970s and 1980s would have loved to have seen how 'Flash' dealt with life on the slopes.

Both celebs did take part in some training, so hopefully we'll get to see some of it in the first programme.

Even those with only scant knowledge of sport will have realised that there's more potential for danger in this show than in, say Dancing on Ice or Strictly Come Dancing. But it's the final challenge that really sends shivers down the spine.

The programme will be broadcast over nine consecutive nights, and whichever duo score the lowest number of points in each edition must take part in the terrifying ski jump to secure their place in the contest.

Good job Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards is on hand with advice...

"The format is simple and compelling; the scale is enormous," says executive producer Andrew MacKenzie. "I'm looking forward to seeing our first skier patiently waiting at the top of a large ski jump ramp."

Isn't we all?



The Jump, Sunday, Channel 4, 8pm

### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

##### Britain's Great War BBC1, 9pm

As Britain prepares to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, some politicians and historians have expressed concern that too many of us seem to have based our understanding of the conflict on repeats of Blackadder Goes Forth. Hopefully, they won't have quite so many objections to this new four-part series, which has been co-produced with The Open University, and looks at the role 'The Great War' played in creating Britain as we know it. In the opening episode, Jeremy Paxman charts the early stages of the war, including the mass recruitment of volunteer soldiers. But he also looks at how it affected the people left at home, who were gripped by a terror of invasion, seeing spies everywhere.

#### TUESDAY

##### Death in Paradise BBC1, 9pm

The focus of this week's show is Fidel's suave old school friend, Carlton Parish, who he sees at an art gallery with Dorothy Foster, a wealthy older woman. When he is later shot at home, Humphrey and the team dig deeper into the case, and discover Parish was an escort who broke many a heart during his work. A local judge and the wife of a club owner are among his unhappy customers. However, as more secrets are revealed, Fidel has a hard time keeping a lid on his emotions, and he to confront some long-buried issues. Kris Marshall and Gary Carr

head the cast, while Josette Simon is among the guest stars.

##### Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans ITV, 9pm

You can run but you can't hide from Paul O'Grady. He's everywhere at the moment, and luckily for us animal-loving softies, he's usually accompanied by a furry friend or three. This latest series has taken the presenter's own passion for animals and blown it up on a much bigger scale, sending him to South Africa and Zambia to meet animals that have been orphaned in the wild. But like all good things, it must come to an end, and in tonight's final episode, Paul is at Chipmunkle Animal Rescue, where he meets Douglas, a hippo calf who was found at five months old wandering alone near the Zambezi River. He also bottle feeds milk to a baby giraffe, and spends time with his favourite baby elephant, Nakala.

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Celebrity Big Brother: The Final Channel 5, 9pm

It seems like no time at all since the latest raft of celebs entered the house, but already it's time for the nail-biting finale as Emma Willis whittles the remaining housemates down until this year's winner is known. And while it may have only lasted a few weeks, we've had no end of memorable moments – some of which we only wish we could scrub from our minds (and many of them involving Jasmine). We've had

romance, we've had tears, and we've had a heavyweight boxer covered in gunge – it's all par for the course in Hertfordshire's most famous bungalow. But now, after three weeks of nominations, tasks and evictions, it's all about to come to a dramatic end.

##### Horizon: Sugar v Fat BBC2, 9pm

Chances are for the past month, post-Christmas, we've all been hitting the gym and carefully monitoring the foods we're putting in our body. It's all very well counting the calories, but what harm is all the sugar and fat in those foods really doing? Doctors Chris and Xand van Tulleken are identical twins, and for the purpose of this programme, are going on month-long diets containing high volumes of fat or sugar to determine which is worse for the human body. The effects on their health prove to be shocking and surprising, however the docs also realise that their biggest enemy may have been staring them in the face the whole time. This is a must-see for all those intent on getting their bodies in tip-top shape this year...

#### THURSDAY

##### Dan Snow's History of the Winter Olympics BBC2, 9pm

When the BBC began looking for a historian to present a programme looking back at 90 years of the Winter Olympics, how long do you think it took them to come up with Dan Snow? After all, he does have the perfect name for the job. This one-off documentary proves he has the knowledge too, as he travels across nine countries to learn more about how the Winter Games took shape and how it was affected by politics, whether it was due to Nazism or the tense rivalries of the Cold War. The tension between East and West arguably culminated in the emotional Olympics of Sarajevo in 1984, where Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean skated to victory on the strains of Bolero.

#### FRIDAY

##### Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Martin Kemp ITV, 9pm

Martin Kemp's done rather a lot in his 52 years – enjoyed a lengthy pop life with Spandau Ballet, played iconic villain Steve Owen in EastEnders and even found himself a Celebrity Big Brother finalist – but chances are he's still got plenty of stories to tell given that he's taking to the hotseat in Piers Morgan's studio. Like the fact that he almost died after finding out about a brain tumour which needed major surgery. He talks of the highs and lows of being in one of the most successful groups to emerge from the New Romantic era, his performance in The Krays (both alongside brother Gary of course), and exactly why he owes friend George Michael big time.



Celebrity Big Brother: The Final, Wednesday, Channel 5, 9pm

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**HALESOWEN, Century Way£750 pcm - Fees**  
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**NEW**  
**ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road£695 pcm - Fees**  
Stylish and quiet living. This immaculately presented modern detached house which is close to local shops and buses. Featuring 2 reception rooms, fitted dining kitchen, downstairs WC, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single bedroom, master bedroom with en-suite, stylish bathroom with shower, driveway and garage. Available 20/03/14. EPC: C



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**ROWLEY REGIS, Fairbourne Avenue£675 pcm - Fees**  
Perfect for a family and close to the M5. A large Mucklow Style detached home which is available now, close to local shops and bus routes. Featuring 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size lounges, large kitchen, downstairs WC, shower room, gas central heating, new windows, huge rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: TBC



**OLDBURY, Pel Crescent £650 pcm - Fees**  
A wonderfully presented modern end terrace property featuring: spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with ensuite. Downstairs WC, gas central heating, double glazed with driveway parking for 2 cars. Available now. EPC: C



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Dog kennel Lane£650 pcm - Fees**  
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**NEW**  
**ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road£625 pcm - Fees**  
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**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Alexandra Road£595 pcm - Fees**  
An unfurnished semi detached house briefly comprising: lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway parking, rear garden. EPC: TBC



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, The Rookery£595 pcm - Fees**  
Set in a lovely cul-de-sac and a highly sought after location. This 2 bedroom house features a modern fitted breakfast kitchen with appliances, great size lounge, double glazing, gas central heating, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking for 2 cars and a large rear garden. EPC: D



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Coombs Road£595 pcm - Fees**  
Deceptively large house with modern decoration. An unfurnished 3 bedroom semi detached house featuring a light and airy lounge, fitted kitchen with a dining area, 2 double bedrooms and 1 large single bedroom, white bathroom suite and 'p' shaped bath, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Peckingham Street£575 pcm - Fees**  
Wonderfully refurbished with original features maintained. 2 apartments immediately available with fantastic convenience centre of town. Ring us now to view these lovely light, airy flats, one with 2 large bay windows. Each has modern kitchen with new appliances and useful utility room. With 2 double bedrooms and 2 bathrooms these are must see exceptional apartments. EPC: TBC



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close£550 pcm - Fees**  
Beautifully presented and in the centre of Halesowen. A top floor unfurnished apartment which has modern decoration and set in a cul-de-sac features 2 good size bedrooms, modern kitchen, spacious lounge, lovely bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed! EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane£550 pcm - Fees**  
A superb fully re-furnished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Tanhouse Lane£499 pcm - Fees**  
Unfurnished detached house currently available in this convenient location having lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs WC, 3 bedrooms & spacious bathroom, garage/driveway. Available immediately. EPC: E



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Millbrook Court£495 pcm - Fees**  
Spacious refurbished 2nd floor apartment in this very convenient location. Having a large lounge with triple glazed windows, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, new bathroom with separate shower cubical, gas central heating, garage and parking. Available now. EPC: C



**NEW**  
**TIPTON, Ferguson Drive £495 pcm - Fees**  
A lovely modern ground floor apartment, briefly comprising of: 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal gardens, internal viewing recommended. EPC: TBC



**NETHERTON, Round Street£475 pcm - Fees**  
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street. EPC: D



**NEW**  
**UPPER GORNAL, Tudor Vale£475 pcm - Fees**  
Sited at the end of the cul-de-sac. This unfurnished end mews house features gas central heating, nicely decorated and carpeted living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Richmond Court£450 pcm - Fees**  
A modern furnished ground floor 1 bedroom flat set within a quiet location and close to shops and Halesowen Town Centre. This lovely apartment features a fitted kitchen, spacious living room, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal gardens. Available immediately. EPC: TBC



**LYE, High Street £425 pcm - Fees**  
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good size bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: F



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street£425 pcm - Fees**  
An unfurnished maisonette which has been fully refurbished and is close to local shops and bus links. This lovely flat features electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, shower room, parking space. EPC: D

**Property****Link-detached priced at around £199,950**

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room, conservatory, garage/store, an impressive rear garden, off-street parking for two cars, with easy access to Birmingham city centre and close to amenities.

In more detail the through lounge/dining room has a dining area with corniced ceiling and ceiling rose and a lounge area with a coal effect electric fire set in a marble effect fireplace surround with mantel over, side fluted columns and marble effect

raised hearth. The kitchen includes a Technik four burner electric hob with extractor hood over and integrated double oven, while the sitting room has a patio door to the conservatory. Upstairs all three bedrooms have fitted furniture.

For further information contact Derek Spires on 0121 420 4646 or visit [www.derekspiresandco.com](http://www.derekspiresandco.com)

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Best Street, Cradley Heath



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Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath



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A traditional end terraced property for sale. The property is situated in a location convenient for local amenities.

Central Avenue, Rowley Regis



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This terraced property is situated in an established residential area. Includes three bedrooms, family bathroom, drive, front and rear gardens.

Clement Road, Halesowen



EPC D

**£85,000**

Extended traditional three bedroom terraced house for sale. The property benefits from two reception rooms.

Gorsty Hill Road, Rowley Regis



EPC E

**£80,000**

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AWAITING EPC

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**Offers Over £80,000**

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Dudley Road, Dudley



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**Offers Over £70,000**

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Stockton Court, Bilston



EPC D

**Offers Over £30,000**

Ideal First time buyer or investment property. First Floor one bedroom flat comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom and allocated parking.



# Motoring

Compiled by Motoring  
Editor Sharon Walters

## Kia goes from strength to strength



**Sharon Walters**  
Motoring editor

s.walters@  
expressandstar.co.uk

**SINCE its launch in 2010 the Kia Sportage has proved itself as a car to be reckoned with in the crossover sector, selling over 20,800 models in 2013 and 47,064 since its launch in the UK.**

The 2014 Sportage is available to pre-order now and available in showrooms from February.

Kia's designers have added a package of styling and equipment upgrades to its crossover to keep it at the forefront of this booming sector. The Sportage is Kia's best-selling model in the UK, claiming around a quarter of the company's sales.

Ian Mathews head of product planning, Kia Motors UK Ltd, commenting on the 2014 Sportage model said: "With the adage 'if it ain't broke...' at the back of our minds we looked carefully at what changes to make to the line-up for the 2014 Sportage to ensure that what customers love about their cars is kept and for enhancements to the line-up to add appeal and diversity.

"We've listened to our dealers and customers and by adding more engine options at the entry and top-of-the-range as well as incorporating new technologies such as



Trailer Stability Assist across all models we are taking standard specification levels to those expected on premium brands."

The 2014 line up is based on the outgoing models trim designation with added specifications and design elements including enhanced versions of Kia's 'tiger-nosed' grille across the range with upgrades from painted to chrome sur-



rounds as well as new styling to the central radiator mesh design. Inside, a new soft 'nano' paint finish has been added to the dashboard and centre console and there is now centre console illumination and soft-touch upper door trims. A heated steering wheel and a six-way power adjustable driver's seat have been added to top spec models.

A 4.2-inch TFT LCD supervision cluster is mounted

between the recessed dials of the newly designed dual-bezel instrument display has been added to selected grades. An Infinity premium audio system, available on Sportage for the first time is fitted to higher grades.

All versions now have Trailer Stability Assist to help make towing safer. A Tyre Pressure Monitoring System is now standard to alert the driver to any significant under-inflation.

Two new variants at the top and bottom have been added to the 16 car line up to further broaden the appeal to customers – an all-wheel drive 2.0 CRDi entry level and the 1.7 CRDi turbodiesel is an option on the top spec two-wheel drive model.

The 1.6-litre direct-injection petrol unit and 1.7-litre turbodiesel made their debuts in the Sportage and are the mainstays of the range in the UK. They come as standard with a six-speed manual gearbox, while with the 2.0-litre engines buyers are offered the choice of six-speed manual or six-speed automatic. The Dymax intelligent all-wheel-drive system is standard on every 2.0-litre model.

Kia engineers conducted final testing on UK roads to ensure that the all-independent suspension delivers agile and safe handling and an absorbent and comfortable ride, despite the unique, challenging demands that British roads present.

In keeping with every Kia, the Sportage comes with the company's industry leading seven-year or 100,000-mile warranty, subject to certain wear and tear conditions. It is fully transferable should the car be sold before the time or mileage limits have been reached.

The Sportage is available with Kia's Care-3 and Care-3 Plus servicing package, offering retail customers fixed-cost, inflation-proof servicing for the first three or five years.

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Fuel consumption figures for CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 31.7 (8.9), Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2), Combined 39.2 (7.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 168g/km; for Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 129g/km; for Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 53.3 (5.3). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 123g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

**Models Shown:** CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,495 On The Road; Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £16,995 On The Road; Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,995 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £269 per month example shown based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £17,895 total cash price including 5 Year Care Plan at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £4,556.64 (19%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £8,854.53, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. New retail Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £209 per month example shown based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £17,895 total cash price including 5 Year Care Plan at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £3,812.69 (22%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £6,158.38, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. New retail Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. The advertised saving of £1,200 (including VAT) discount to the OTR price for the Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S applied to the retail invoice. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £140 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,995. Total cash price including 5 Year Care Package (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £1,795.20 (16%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £4,159.72, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 9JQ. The 5 Year Care Package includes: **Servicing:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary HondaCare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,545 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.



# Motoring

## Sports model to be unveiled at US show

**LEXUS** revealed the new RC F at the North American International Auto Show this week, a sports thoroughbred model based on the RC coupe which made its debut in Tokyo in November.

The RC F is equipped with a new 5.0-litre V8 engine with a maximum output set to be well above 450bhp. Its status as the most powerful V8 road-going car Lexus has yet built is reflected in styling optimised for stability at high speeds, including wider wheels and tyres, an active rear wing, air scoops, cooling ducts and carbon-fibre components.

Each element delivers what Lexus calls 'functional beauty' to the overall design.

### Contribute

"The form of each component is carefully designed to contribute to performance," said Yukihiko Yaguchi, RC F chief engineer.

"Unique air outlets in the bonnet and rear section of the front wings contribute to optimum engine cooling and handling stability."

"They create a powerful look that immediately conveys the expectation of a dynamic driving experience."

The signature Lexus spindle grille dominates the front of the RC F with a single F mesh section that extends all the way from the bonnet line to the lower lip.

The bonnet is set higher than on the RC, helping create a powerful, flared profile true to the ethos of Lexus's F models.

Ducts beneath the front bumper and wings, and strategically placed aerody-



amic stabilising fins create a stance that further broadcasts the model's Lexus F pedigree.

Outlets to the rear of the front wings form an L shape where they merge with the side sill extensions. The car's powerful character is also expressed in stacked, trapezoidal quad-outlet tailpipes.

The RC F displays design cues taken from the LFA supercar. An active rear wing automatically deploys at 80km/h (50mph) and retracts when speed falls below 40km/h (25mph), preserving the coupe's sleek lines at standstill.

Three variations of a 10-spoke, 19in forged aluminium wheel design will be available, according to grade, including a set hand-polished by craftsmen.

Inside, the instrument panel is dominated by a central dial, which automatically adapts in line with the coupe's four different driving modes. In each case different information colour and text size are displayed.

To help ensure comfort, Lexus produced a new steering wheel design, with an elliptical cross-section, a thick grip and optimum location of shift paddles.

The high-back seats are also new: finished with an embossed F on the headrests, their styling is inspired in part by modern high-tech athletic sportswear.

Five leather trims will be available, all with contrast stitching.

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# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

## Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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### 2 Leisure Time

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**DIAMOND BACK SHIMANO** Bike, as new, ridden 3 times only, maxis tyres. £200 ono. 01384 254938.

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**TANGLEWOOD STAR** Electric guitar, £200 with hard case. 01902 679660.

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### 3 Home & Services

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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**BRUNO** 3yr German Shepherd x big friendly boy

**BRANDY** 2yr old Alsatian x Lab lovely big affectionate girl 01588 676106 [www.dogsamaritans.org.uk](http://www.dogsamaritans.org.uk)



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# Classified Ads

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**RENAULT CLIO 1.2**, V reg, 3dr, silver, tax, MoT, good condition, brilliant runner, £550 ono. 01902 700617, 07837 460085.

**RENAULT CLIO DCI EXP+**, 52 reg, 80bhp, 5dr, 109k, fsh, ac, ew, er, sr, MoT July, recent cambelt, £1,150 ono. 07762 377557.

**RENAULT CLIO** Dynamique 1.5 diesel, 5dr, silver, 53 reg, tax, MoT, 80k, spares or repair, £550. 07913 025392.

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**SAAB 900SE** convertible, 2.0, 1997, blue, 151,302 miles, tax, MoT, new clutch, hood needs attention, leather seats, £650. 07954 473185.

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**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 DIESEL** 2000, MoT, tax, SH, silver, excellent condition. £550. 07811 207388.

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**WANTED OLD** motorcycle for restoration, complete or just parts. 01922 415137. 07944 270345.

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**ANTHONY ARNOLD GRAHAM (Deceased)** Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Pine Cottage Rumbow Romsley Halesowen B62 0LX, who died on 22/06/2012, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 28/03/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice. **HADKISS HUGHES & BEALE** 47 Yardley Road Acres Green Birmingham B27 6HQ 7399601

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### personal

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## Old Hales get their revenge on Sandbach

**Sandbach 10 OHRFC 37**  
OLD Halesonians travelled to Cheshire to avenge the loss to Sandbach earlier in the season.

Greg Smith at scrum half replaced injured Nathan Jones and rearranged forwards with Dan Young moving to second row, Jake Hayden-Wright on the back row.

After 10 minutes Hales' forward rucking power resulted in Jordan scoring a try, converted by Chris Hooper. The home side came back with a penalty.

A driving maul resulted in developing recruit Jake Hayden-Wright driving over for a well-deserved try, converted by Hooper.

Dan Young next on the try list, converted by Hooper 3-21. Additional pressure by Hales forced two penalties in close succession.

Shortly after half time hooker Pete Fitzgerald scored. Then Hales relaxed and allowed Sandbach back into the game with a well-worked try and conversion.

The final score came from wing Luke Smith

## Invite for all runners to have a heart

RUNNERS of all abilities are being invited to get their trainers on and get out to take part in a charity run to help raise funds and save lives.

This year's Action Heart five mile run will be held on Sunday February 23 from 9.30am and will be starting out from Dudley.

It is the 23rd year the charity has organised the event which raises money to fund cardiac rehabilitation treatment.

The run starts and finishes at Russells Hall Hospital Dudley and runners from first timers to seasoned joggers and on to the more experienced athletes are welcome to enter.

If the running sounds too energetic for anyone they can still take part and enter as a walker.

All funds raised from the event will be used directly by the Action Heart cardiac rehabilitation programme which is based in Dudley.

For more details and an entry form visit [www.action-heartrunning.com](http://www.action-heartrunning.com) or contact 01384 292233.

# Heathens are safe assures chairman

CRADLEY Speedway bosses insist the future of the club is safe - whether they are successful with a new track or not.

The club held talks last week to try and move the project along with one piece of land in particular on the radar.

The reigning National League champions are preparing for their fifth season since the relaunch, riding home meetings at Wolverhampton in front of bumper crowds.

Chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We had a management meeting last week because, to be totally

frank, we are concerned by the lack of progress we have made on a new track.

"We drew up an action plan of what needs to be done next and more meetings will follow.

"There is one piece of land which we were told last week should meet planning requirements, although it won't be plain sailing. We've been looking at it for over a year.

"But to get to that stage we need to gain the necessary co-operation from the landowners and until we make progress on that score there is nothing more we can do.

"This is a vital year for the man-

### Speedway

agement to make some progress on this venture. If we don't get to take this further then I would have to say it's our last throw of the dice for a new track.

"Where we go from there would be down to the supporters. The fans are the reason why we are going into our fifth season, when initially we said we would give it three years.

"If the fans want a team to support then we will continue to run the club at Wolverhampton in the event of no track of our own.

"It's quite simple in my eyes. Back the team, back the club and we will continue to do everything we can to promote a positive and professional image of Cradley Heath Speedway.

"There have been some supporters expressing concern that we will close down if we don't get a new track. Again, that's down to the fans and the amount who still want to see their team in action.

"At the same time I also acknowledge we cannot stay at National League level forever. The main reason we are at this level is because we need to be a financially

viable operation in the event of us presenting our business plan to landowners.

"If, however, that option was taken away from us then we would have to think again."

Heathens have reported impressive season ticket sales with many applications from fans who have never had one before.

The club are staging a season ticket sales night at Cradley Heath Liberal Club this Thursday, January 23 when fans have a chance to snap up tickets at discounted prices before the January 31 deadline.

## Brewing a Storm as first game is revealed

CRADLEY'S first home meeting of the 2014 season will be on Tuesday April 1 - when the Heathens face local rivals Coventry in the second leg of the Travel Plus Trophy.

Will Pottingers's revamped side, who will defend a clean sweep of National League honours, are set to visit Brandon on Friday March 21 for the first leg as they look to repeat last year's victories over the Storm.

Heathens have three new faces in their line-up this season plus the return of fans' favourite Tom Perry, and it means they will immediately come up against 2012-13 team member Dan Greenwood, who has switched to Coventry over the winter.

Chairman Nigel Pearson said: "I'm sure we'll take plenty of fans to Coventry for our first fixture, and then April 1 is the date for everyone to put in their diaries for the home opener."

● Heathens will once again be staging the British Under-21 Final at their adopted Monmore Green home this season. The meeting, a big success over the last two years, will take place on Tuesday April 15.

# Yeltz Ladies pitch in to leave the Medics sick

**Halesowen 6 Birmingham Medics 2**

HALESOWEN faced the Birmingham Medics, on a pitch that could only be described as a bog, but both teams were adamant to play the game as the Yeltz as still involved two cup competitions had to play the game.

The conditions wouldn't favour the Halesowen side and made it a bit of a leveller and a advantage for the visitors.

Halesowen with the winter sun in their face started the more briskly and looked in good shape.

However, poor communication and an even poorer pitch meant things weren't quite going the home side's way.

The medics were the first to break the dead lock with a hopeful drive and with stand in Keeper Lauren Gilbert unsighted due to the sun.

This only bucked up the Yeltz side and with an early substitution with her first touch of the ball replied to even the score with a powerful looping cross lifting the ball above the keeper.

Yeltz had taken the lead on 29 minutes with quick striker Rachel Letford latching on to a through ball from Sophie Richards.

The Yeltz defence were very strong and dealt with everything that the medics threw at them.

Half-time came and with Manager Scott McKee not accepting the performance and he requested the Yeltz Ladies had to raise their game.

Halesowen took the game to the Medics and within four

### Football

mins Sarah Hammil with a low drive sent them on the way with good play by defender Sabrina Dale.

The Yeltz crew now were back to the best and a fine cross Letford found unmarked Nicola Finlay to slot into the empty net.

With 15 minutes to go and off a Cloe Harris corner Haley Chatwin rose above the defenders to head home to make it 5-1.

As the undefeated home side piled forward a slip by a defender let in the striker and made no mistake with the rare opportunity they got.

Halesowen again got under way and pressured the visitors and with six minutes left Whitthall found Richards who shot past the sun-blinded keeper.

The game was never going to be pretty and the conditions didn't favour the home side, but in the second half there was only one team in it who deserved the win.

The undefeated Yeltz side face Santiago Ladies at home this week.



Sarah Hammil for the Yeltz Ladies passing the ball during the action at home on the less than perfect pitch

## Gornal have their lead taken away

**Heath Hayes 3 Gornal Athletic 2**

HEATH HAYES came back from two goals down to clinch the points in a crucial Midland Alliance relegation battle.

Richard Smith fired Gornal into a fifth-minute lead. Then Ravi Sangha doubled his side's lead.

Gornal keeper Luke Stevens then pushed a goal-bound effort from Dave Waple onto the bar to maintain his side's lead.

Hayes got the ideal start to the second half when Tom Baggott headed powerfully home from a corner.

This inspired the home side and Baggott had them on equal terms when he pounced after Stevens dived full-length to push away a shot from Adam Langley.

The all important winner came in the 82nd minute when Dan Scragg played in Dave Waple who coolly fired home from 12 yards.



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# SPORT

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## Veltz Ladies pitch in

Squad is not bogged down by conditions to grab victory

**Page 39**

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## Weather fails to halt AFC stormer

**Gornal Athletic 1 AFC Wulfrunians 2**

AFC Wulfrunians prevailed in challenging conditions as they battled to victory against Gornal Athletic.

Wulfrunians raced into a first half lead through Nathan Rose-Laing and Jordan Perks; before Ben Evans' goal led to a tense final half an hour for the visitors.

The heavy rain played a huge part with early chances for both sides failing to materialise. Perhaps Gornal's best chance of the half fell to Richard Smith; he managed to get one-on-one with Tipton but the 'keeper produced a fine save to deny him.

Wulfs took the lead after some impressive build-up play; David Howells beat two players before Perks threaded a ball through for Rose-Laing, who made no mistake as he fired an effort past Luke Stevens.

The lead was doubled seven minutes before the break; Richard Golding turned the ball inside to Perks whose curling effort crept into the corner of the goal.

Evans gave Gornal a way back into the game after 63 minutes, a floated free kick found its way to him at the back post and he rifled his effort into the roof of the net, leaving Tipton with no chance.

## Wolves' eye is on Tomlin

WOLVES have enquired about £3m-rated Peterborough forward Lee Tomlin as head coach Kenny Jackett admitted various bids had been made for players.

Tomlin, who has scored nine goals this season and often plays in the attacking midfield role Jackett has identified, is the latest target to emerge this transfer window.

Peterborough rejected three bids for stockily-built Tomlin from Celtic in the summer rising to £2.5m, interest which is said to have turned the head of the forward, who submitted a transfer request.

And with Tomlin into the last 18 months of his contract, the former Rushden and Diamonds man has now been made available by Posh. The London Road club would be reluctant to sell their star player to a promotion rival, hence the inflated asking price.

## Captain Marvel makes a point with late goal

Tipton Town 2 Quorn 2

A LAST-gasp equaliser by Captain Marvel Chris Waterhouse deep into injury time completed a dramatic comeback for Town.

Waterhouse poked home after a goal-mouth scramble in the 96th minutes to ensure a share of the points after Quorn had led 2-0 with 85 minutes gone.

In a game that only really came to life in the dying stages, both sides battled to overcome a swirling wind and heavy pitch. Tipton keeper James Pemberton pulled off an excellent save on five minutes to deny Liam Turner after a

### Football

loose defensive header by Joe Rogers. On 15 minutes a Danny Ashton free kick almost found Marvin Nisbett at the near post but a timely intervention by Carl Sibson denied a goal.

And on 25 minutes a spell of excellent passing by the visitors saw Blaize Kerr's shot from the edge of the area deflect just wide of Pemberton's far post.

Quorn came out much more positively in the second half, although clearcut chances were in short supply. On 62

minutes, Jimmy Dodd's shot was deflected wide for a corner from which Graham Ashton's clearance narrowly cleared the crossbar. But seconds later Quorn took the lead when Tom Cooper rifled home from close range.

And the lead was doubled on 74 minutes when Liam Reed broke free on the half-way line, evaded the attentions of Ashton and Waterhouse and slotted home in style to seemingly kill off the game.

Pemberton's excellent save to prevent Town going three down sparked a turning of the tide and Mike Perk's first league

goal of the season – a towering header from Danny Ashton's corner on 85 minutes – signalled the start of the fight back.

Tipton carved two excellent chances to equalise in stoppage time with substitute Callum Martin's free header from four yards in the 92nd minute followed by an excellent last-ditch clearance by Cooper to deny Jordan Archer just seconds later.

But from the resulting corner Waterhouse bundled home from just yards out to extend Tipton's unbeaten run to six games.

## Anelka's future in jeopardy

ALBION have told Nicolas Anelka he must decide himself whether to fight his FA misconduct charge as the Frenchman's Hawthorns future hangs in the balance.

Anelka has refused to back down over his controversial 'quenelle' goal celebration and sent out a tweet that hinted he is ready to contest the FA's allegations.

But the Baggies have told the 34-year-old he must foot his own legal bills and the decision over whether to accept or contest the charge rests solely with him.

Anelka has consistently denied his gesture was intended to be anti-Semitic but admitted he was supporting his friend, a controversial stand-up comedian who has been banned from performing in some French cities over claims of anti-Semitism.

The forward tweeted a link to a French news clip in which Roger Cukierman, president of French-based Jewish group CRIF, claimed the gesture was not anti-Semitic if performed on a football pitch.

Anelka has until 6pm today to answer the charge, which could mean the end of his Albion stay and possibly his career.

The former France international has held a 40-minute meeting with Hawthorns officials including sporting and technical director Richard Garlick, a former sports lawyer.

And he was handed a 34-page FA document detailing the charge against him.

If Anelka accepts the charge, he could be punished with a suspension of up to 10 games likely.

If he fights the charge he may request a personal hearing. His fate will be decided by a three-man panel, headed by a QC.

# HULL OF A GOAL IS VITAL FOR YELTZ WIN

**Halesowen Town 1 Rainworth Miners' Welfare 0**

**CAPTAIN fantastic Joe Hull headed Halesowen back to winning ways. Yeltz claimed three vital points from a closely fought contest to maintain a five point lead at the top of the table.**

The encounter held additional spice with the Rainworth management duo consisting of former Halesowen manager Matt Clarke and former player Scott Rickards.

The Wrens made the early running in a positive start to earn a seventh minute corner.

Ashley Longstaff's long-range effort fell wide two minutes later before Hull and Asa Charlton cleared two further corners from player/manager Rickards.

### Grabbed

Sam Pearson returned in goal for the hosts and he collected a 15th minute shot from Nathan Forbes-Swindells and grabbed another long range Longstaff effort after 17 minutes.

A 25-yard lob by Jack Hawkins dipped just over the home bar with Pearson off his line. But Hull headed home the solitary 25th minute winning goal after meeting a long throw-in from Tom Tonks, although Rainworth goalkeeper James Martin was at fault for failing to grasp the ball and allowing it to squirm into his net in Halesowen's first real attempt on goal.

In even exchanges, Curtis Tilt's cross was inches too high for Iyseden Christie after half-an-hour and the same player clipped another

### Football

Halesowen chance just wide after latching on to Charlton's excellent ball forward in the 36th minute.

Forbes-Swindells swivelled to poke just wide again with the home defence slow to clear at the start of an attritional second period.

With the Yeltz seeking a second goal, a spell of home pressure followed with Ross Clarke marking his full debut with a sweet 55th minute curling shot, bringing a fine save from Martin.

A blast from Christie was beaten away four minutes later as the Yeltz forced three consecutive corners and Ben Haseley then just failed to connect with a clever reverse ball from his strike partner Christie.

Former Villa Academy star Umit Eminoglu made his Yeltz debut as a late substitute and looked lively despite an over-elaborate clearance on the edge of his own penalty area.

Aware of results elsewhere and the importance of securing all three points, Halesowen assistant manager Trevor Burroughs was sent from the Halesowen dugout for venting his frustration with 10 minutes remaining, but the hosts comfortably played out the dying minutes.

## Curtis awarded man of the match after victory



After Saturday's 1-0 home win against Rainworth – MP James Morris along with Nigel Moseley of Tulleys Print (Programme Sponsor of Halesowen) presenting Man of The Match Award to Curtis Tilt.

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